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MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NUMBER

MINNESOTA
PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION
LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

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QUARTERLY.

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GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN, Minneapolis.
GEORGE E. VINCENT, Minneapolis.
C. G. SCHULZ, St. Paul.
WARREN UPHAM, St. Paul.

CLARA F. BALDWIN, *Secretary*.
MIRIAM E. CAREY, *Organizer*.
HELEN J. STEARNS, *Librarian*.
MARY P. PRINGLE, *Assistant Librarian*.
MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor*.

MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Minnesota Library Association was held in Faribault, October 2-4. The registered attendance was sixty-seven, including librarians, members of the State Library Commission, trustees and others interested in library work.

The first session was called to order by the president of the Association, Miss Margaret Palmer, librarian, Hibbing Public Library, on Wednesday at 2:30 p. m. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with, as they had been published in substance in the Commission Notes and News. The following committees were appointed: On resolutions, Miss Lowe, Miss Clapp and Miss Sands; on nominations, Miss Carey, Miss Farr and Miss Emerick. Following the business meeting was the trustees' section presided over by Rev. F. M. Garland, trustee of the Northfield library. Miss Perrie Jones of Wabasha read a paper on the Limitations of the \$1,000-a-year library, which provoked a very lively and profitable

discussion on both the possibilities and the limitations of such a library.

A discussion on

Grosset and Dunlap Editions versus Re-binding

was led by Miss Isabel Kay of the St. Paul library. From her experience in the public library of St. Paul she was quite strongly in favor of rebinding books as a rule rather than replacing them with cheap editions. To one not familiar with the work it might at first sight seem unwise to rebind a book when it could be replaced by a new one at a very little greater cost, perhaps at a less cost than the price of binding. The library pays 40 cents for binding a volume of ordinary size and the usual price of the Grosset book is 42 cents and other low-priced editions can be had for 40 cents a volume. During the last year one St. Paul dealer has been supplying the cheap editions at 38 cents a volume. Of course the question of rebinding depends largely upon the condition of the book. They are laid aside for binding when the cover begins to loosen and usually by that time the outside is more or less soiled and shabby. Occasionally they come from a station with a number of loose leaves and sometimes quite shattered as well as soiled, so it is more of a question whether to rebind or discard. Still if none of the pages are missing it usually goes to the bindery. Quite a number of the smaller juvenile books are discarded without rebinding because they become so soiled and many of them can be had for 30 cents or less.

The strongest reason in favor of rebinding is that a book usually lasts so much

longer after binding than before. For this reason books are often sent to the bindery that could be replaced for less money than the cost of binding—such as the Potter books, "Tale of Peter Rabbit," etc., which cost 33 cents to replace and 40 cents to rebind. Miss Kay had examined a few books to compare the wearing qualities before and after binding, taking only those which retained their popularity until worn out, such as "Shepherd of the hills," "Inner shrine," "Silver horde," "Girl of the Limberlost," etc. She found that usually the book wore two or three times as long after binding; this being the case with the cheaper editions as well as the higher priced ones, though probably in some cases the book should have been retired from service sooner. Another point in favor of rebinding is that if not rebound a book must be used longer in a shabby condition, also there must be more mending done. The experiment of resetting the cover with the Gaylord mending materials has been found rather unsatisfactory, results not being in proportion to the time spent. Another reason for rebinding is that in replacing a book, besides the actual cost of the volume the value of one's time must be considered for there is much more work connected with discarding and preparing a book for circulation than with having one rebound. Still another reason is that as a rule a book is withdrawn from circulation for a longer period when discarded and replaced than when rebound. Books are sent to the bindery once a month but replaced only once in two months and then there is often delay in ordering and receiving so that it is not unusual for some volumes to be out of circulation for several months. However in a large library where there are several copies of popular books it is not a serious matter and if patrons cannot always find the book asked for something else will do as well. The last two reasons for rebinding might not apply to libraries in small places. Where books must be sent away to be rebound the cost of transportation must be added to the cost of binding. Then, too, it may be that a book can be replaced more quickly than rebound when the work is not done in the town.

An objection to the cheap editions is that they are so soon subjects for the bindery. In a recent bindery lot the speaker noticed several volumes that seemed little worn on

the outside but were loosened from the cover. It was found that three of them had been in circulation only since July. One was a Burt publication, one a Grosset and one a Scribner.

In the discussion which followed, attention was called to the re-enforced editions of the Grosset & Dunlap publications, issued by the H. R. Huntting Co., Springfield, Mass., which may be obtained for 63 cents a volume, and promise to give excellent service.

Miss Clara F. Baldwin, Secretary of the Minnesota Public Library Commission, conducted an informal discussion on Library Legislation, which resulted in a legislative committee being appointed to work out details with the Minnesota Library Commission before presenting bills to the Legislature. The committee consisted of Mr. L. R. Moyer, Montevideo; Miss Lilly Borresen, Two Harbors and Miss Martha Wilson, St. Paul. Then followed a discussion on vacations and substitutes, and it was suggested to the Committee on Legislation that it be recommended that a law be passed requiring librarians to attend state library meetings, expenses paid and substitute supplied; also that librarians should have two, or if possible, three weeks vacation with salary paid.

At the session held on Wednesday evening the association was welcomed by Hon. Alson Blodgett, mayor of Faribault, in a few felicitous remarks. Mrs. E. H. Loyhed welcomed the association on behalf of the club women, in which she called attention to the fact that the club women were among the best readers who patronize the library. Judge T. S. Buckham, President of the Library Board, extended a most cordial welcome from the board.

Miss Palmer responded as follows:

"It is a pleasure to meet with you here and I am sure I am only making articulate the real sentiment of the Minnesota Library Association when I say that we felicitate ourselves that we are able to hold our twentieth annual meeting with you of Faribault.

When the church, the municipality, the club and the library reach hands of welcome, there is nothing to be desired. Hospitality has done her kindest. The fruits of the hospitality we hope to transmute forthwith into public service.

We expect in the days we spend with you to gain much that we can put into better days-works for the libraries of Minnesota

—North, South, East, West. If this were a general discussion instead of a prosy monologue, I make no doubt that you laymen could tell us much that it would profit us, as trustees and librarians, to know. You could point at, and perhaps formulate, ways in which we could serve you better. We want earnestly to do this.

For many years we have met more or less fully the need of the student, old and young. The searcher for material on history, literature and ethics has come to us empty and gone away full. We have functioned, as librarians have functioned from time immemorial, in supplying just these demands. But now, without abandoning any of the ground that we have occupied for years, a field in which we have served increasingly the student of literature, history and the fine arts; we have set ourselves to extend the activities of the public library until it shall number among its patrons the business man and the industrial worker of every class. And we look not only to a direct service to the individual of the community, but we would serve him as effectively, if not so directly, through governing bodies and public service organizations.

To sum up, the student will still find at the library public-service plant, his book on the conduct of life, the justification of Caesar's career, or an essay on the sonnet form, but here, too, the merchant may expect to study advertising and salesmanship, the industrial worker may find books on sheet and metal work or the open hearth process; and the board of health may learn the latest method of sewage disposal. We are working toward the ideal of public service.

The program in your hand, suggests some of the emanations of the spirit of service. It outlines some of the things that have been done in some of the fields of library work in Minnesota. It is not all inclusive nor exhaustive.

We wish it might stimulate your interest in this branch of the public service, and we cordially invite you and urge you to come and hear us talk. We love to have people hear us talk.

We trust you will not find us tedious guests—we take ourselves not too seriously we hope.

The most of the feminine part of us can cook, can manipulate the needle's point and do other domestic things. All of us can

read, though we don't, for lack of time, and some of us can write better than the present president of the association.

In spite of our interesting calling, we are liable to get into ruts. We shall take these Faribault days, a bunch of wild flowers, to brush the cobwebs from our brains.

'Absorption in a round of petty interests' a recent militant novel says, 'brings women to the scrap heap.'

If the Minnesota librarian has any motion in that direction it will meet a serious retardation for this stay in your pleasant city."

Miss Palmer then introduced Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, and representative of the American Library Association. His address on the Advertisement of Ideas was full of stimulating suggestions and is printed in large part on following pages of the bulletin.

Mrs. C. A. Weyerhaeuser, a trustee of the public library at Little Falls, added much to the pleasure of both evening sessions by her exquisite interpretation of a number of charming songs.

Following the lecture was a reception given by the Faribault clubs, and all had the privilege of meeting Dr. Bostwick and an hour of renewing and making acquaintances.

The first topic on the morning of October 3rd was County Extension in Minnesota.

Reports of work accomplished in various counties as given by Miss Chapin, of Owatonna, Steele Co.; Miss Conway, of Stillwater, Washington Co.; Miss Borreson, of Two Harbors, Lake Co.; Miss Emerick, of Rochester, Olmsted Co., will be found on another page. Mrs. Huntley of Grand Rapids, Itasca Co., was unable to be present, but reported that good results had been obtained during the past year by placing traveling libraries, loaned to the Grand Rapids library by the Library Commission, in rural schools.

In the absence of Miss Torpey, librarian of Morris, Stevens Co., Mrs. Spooner, a member of the library board, reported that 36 libraries had been sent to 15 stations the past year, and 20 groups of from 5 to 15 books have been loaned to rural schools, a total of 1,580 books sent out from the central library. The number of county borrowers registered is 567. Of the county appropriation of \$500, about \$400 was spent for books, the balance for cases, freight and drayage and other expenses. This year a

new departure was made in furnishing libraries of children's books to schools in the country. These include books for all grades and material for the teacher's use in reading and telling stories. This plan gives better results than placing the general libraries in stores, as the teachers are willing to co-operate with the librarian, and the storekeepers do not have time to attend to them. German and Scandinavian books are furnished in districts where English books would not be read. Mrs. Spooner commented on the fact that the extension work had involved a large amount of extra work with no provision for additional service or compensation.

The papers on libraries in state institutions were made especially interesting, since Faribault is the home of so many institutions, and it was possible to observe the actual work of these libraries in the visits which closed the session on Saturday morning.

Miss Burgess, librarian of the Institution for the Blind, told of the free carriage by mail of the books for the blind and how much it had increased the amount of reading, and also of the great cost of a book of raised print compared with ink print. David Copperfield is in six volumes and costs \$21.00.

Miss Chute of Owatonna read a paper on the State Public School, in which she spoke enthusiastically for a children's library in a public institution. She is evidently doing a great work among those children, and the leading thought was that "the guidance which comes of a knowledge of that particular child and his particular interests and yet leaves him a chance to choose, seems to be the ideal path for a librarian in that kind of school."

Miss Carson of Sauk Center spoke on the Home School for Girls. The majority of the girls come from the juvenile court and the larger per cent are not absolutely bad but come from ignorant and bad surroundings, and the aim is to supply all literary and other environments to uplift and make them capable homemakers.

Miss Loehl, librarian at the Training School in Red Wing, spoke on her work with the boys of that institution. The general attitude of the boys is that they do not want to read and as a result they give them as far as is possible or consistent the books they ask for, so that they may have confi-

dence in the librarian having books that will interest them, then gradually lead them to a better and more helpful class of books.

Miss McLean, librarian of the School for the Feeble Minded, discussed the system peculiar to the Faribault institution by which feeble-minded children are made to feel that "joining the library" is a dignified privilege. Instead of attendants taking out books for the children, the children themselves are taught to select their own books and to be responsible for them.

Mr. Tuck's paper on the School for the Deaf was read by Miss Carey. The principal thought was that as a compensation for deafness, the one so afflicted must have reading, reading and reading. All his life it will be more necessary and useful to him than to the hearing person, both as a source of instruction and pleasure, and this of course makes the library all the more necessary.

(The foregoing papers will be printed in a later number of Library Notes & News.)

Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries, spoke on suggested legislation to extend the work of county libraries to rural schools. She said that in many school libraries a large number of the books are unsuited to the school age. The following is an outline of what she wished to be submitted to the legislature this winter: When there is a county library all schools should be permitted to turn over all of their books (except reference books) to the county library. Districts wishing to take advantage of this traveling library system should pay their money to the county library and the state should pay the amount due that school to the county library.

Miss Ackerman of Cannon Falls, read a paper on the School Library as a Public Library, relating the experiment recently tried in Cannon Falls as given on a following page.

Miss Lura Hutchinson, librarian of the Seward School Branch of Minneapolis, gave a paper on the same, which is printed below.

The afternoon session opened with the general topic—The People's University—the Reference Room. Miss Lewis, librarian of Fergus Falls, read a paper on the Relation of Book Selection to Reference Work, which appears on another page.

Miss Howe of the Minneapolis Public Library conducted a round table on the Catalog as a Reference Tool. Miss Firkins

of the University Library told "How it looks to a reference librarian." After twenty-four years experience the writer's opinion was that the great advantage of a dictionary catalog was the saving of time both to librarian and public. Students can be taught to use it and while it does not do all the work by any means for the librarian, no device does.

Miss Clapp, of the North Side Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library, continued with a paper still further developing

The Advantages of a Dictionary Catalog to the Public.

Since it is impossible for any librarian to know intimately every book in her library, the dictionary catalog must hold its relative place in the economy of a library—a sort of short-cut, as it were, to its resources for both the public and the librarian.

To the latter an increase in circulation is always gratifying, but it does not altogether prove that her library is reaching the greatest number of people in all the ways in which they wish to be reached. It is a question of being able to give her patrons not only the author or title of this or that book, but whatever of practical information that book may contain. It is to answer all query, supply every need. The librarian may be ever so familiar with her own collection of books; her memory be ever so elastic, but there may come a time of stress when she will find herself assailed on all sides, when her memory may be stretched to the breaking-point. Then will she turn with relief to that most valuable of assets—the dictionary catalog. Not a mere author catalog, whose substance value is after all but a collection of authors and titles and whose symbols stand for but little save the position of the books upon the shelves, but to a catalog clearly subjected, carefully analyzed, all available material thus formulated and summarized. It must mean to her an economy of time and of labor; the easing the mind of a mass of detail and the doing away with much physical as well as mental wear and tear.

And if a valuable tool to the librarian why not to the public? Why not the medium for familiarizing the student, the teacher and the outsider with the resources of the library and a more perfect knowledge of the use of books? Here again it would seem to serve its purpose as a time-saving device.

It is usually impossible for the librarian to make herself available to more than a few people at the same time, and why not put within reach of the woman hunting for the best method of removing spots or stains, as well as the scholar seeking the source of a Shakespearian plot, the intelligent means of helping themselves.

If the purpose of the library is a reaching out, tentacle-like, to draw unto itself the greatest number of people and benefit them in the greatest number of ways, what better aid could be employed than the dictionary catalog, constructed not only with the idea of being an asset to the librarian's own native intelligence and knowledge of her own shelves, but brought down to terms that shall serve as an intelligible working-guide to the public."

Miss Honora McLachlan, Assistant Franklin Branch, Minneapolis, continued the discussion dwelling upon the

Value of the Catalog to the New Assistant.

It is obvious that no two libraries contain exactly the same books; that no library can expect to retain its same assistants always, and that no single individual can know everything. The public, however, expects to receive prompt and efficient service, though this service is insured only when each library has a carefully prepared catalog. The catalog is the librarian's first aid. It unlocks almost at once many of the treasures that a library may contain. It is in fact the only way that the resources of a great collection of books can become known to a library staff. When a library possesses a complete catalog, the new assistant can locate material quickly and a certain book—to say nothing of the seldom-called-for, unusual material hidden away in the most unexpected places, can be in the borrower's hands almost at once.

Only you, who through the lack of a catalog, have kept your patrons unnecessarily waiting, have seen them turn dissatisfied away, have seen them turn with diminished respect from the library and its boasted usefulness, and have felt your cheeks burn with embarrassment at such inefficient service, can appreciate the value of the catalog to the new assistant.

And, if the library assistant is so handicapped without the catalog what about the people who want information but who will not ask the assistant? How can they be

brought to use the catalog, a thing so awe-inspiring to many a user of the library?

In the first place the catalog should be constructed on the simplest lines; the guide cards should be sufficiently numerous and comprehensive to be of value, though even then, in order that the user may consult it intelligently, he must understand to some extent the principles on which the catalog is made, so that if he does not find what he wants in one place, he can hunt for it in another. The plan followed by many libraries of placing a card headed "How to use the card catalog" at the front and middle of every drawer has proven effectual, for the person discovers this aid when he finds himself in difficulty.

Nothing, however, can take the place of personal explanation and this should be given whenever possible. Among the patrons are men who are reluctant about troubling the women assistants to find material for them; club women who grow apologetic for demanding so much attention; timid students who feel that perhaps their questions are too trivial to bother anyone about—all of whom are deeply grateful for any suggestion from the librarian which will help them to help themselves. They in turn help others and so the number of intelligent users of the catalog grows.

Probably the most satisfactory readers to acquaint with the catalog are the upper grade and high school pupils. They are so eager and enthusiastic, so fearless to put into practice their knowledge. I've taken them by classes and given them instruction and in dealing with the schools have found superintendents and teachers most willing to co-operate, ready to bring the children to the library at any time I'd appoint, ready to give a regular class period during school hours so that the children would feel the importance of the work, because it was felt that a knowledge of the library's facilities would not only aid the pupils in the preparation of their lessons, but in pursuing their education if obliged to leave school early and prove a valuable asset to those who would later enter college.

No one likes delays, but when the assistants are very busy, waits are often unavoidable, and it is then that the inquiring public familiar with the use of the catalog, need not stand back helpless and waiting but confident and happy help themselves and feel at home.

Other points along the same line were emphasized by Miss Leonard of the cataloging staff of the Minneapolis Public Library.

Reference Work With the Rural Districts was the topic assigned to Miss Mary Pringle, reference librarian of the Commission. Miss Pringle pointed out some of the drawbacks of trying to do reference work at long distance, saying it was reference work and rural districts, alas! not with them. All librarians know the difficulty, even when the patient is right on hand, of extracting information as to just what is wanted. She gave a number of amusing illustrations of "hurry calls" for material by return mail, on such vague topics as "Launched, but not anchored" or five cents worth of material on art. The books on the open shelf of the traveling library are first consulted, then the magazine collection. The Historical Society and Department of Public Instruction are often called upon and are always ready and willing not only to loan material whenever possible, but to assist in finding it. Then the St. Paul Public Library is most generous in loaning its books and when all these resources fail, there is the Dispatch information bureau. "If they do not know then there is no answer."

The requests come from club women, students, men's debating societies and teachers. These are requests from individuals and have no connection with the traveling libraries or the club libraries. The best material available is sent and the borrower keeps it for one month and pays the postage both ways. There is no fee.

The records for a whole year showed that not one single person had failed to remember to pay back the postage. During one month last year there were individual requests from 90 people on 90 different subjects. In answer to which were sent out 40 books and 477 magazine articles. A list of subjects taken from the record in the order they came includes, Dickens, camp-cooking, eugenics, Bismarck, geology of Idaho, fairy tale plays, woman suffrage, potatoes and reciprocity.

As the open-shelf collection is small and as many of the calls are for present-day topics much of the best material is to be found in the magazines. The Commission has printed a small manila folder, similar to that used in the Cumulative reference library, on which are printed the rules for

borrowing, a place for the title of the article, name of magazine and the date. The article wanted is taken out of the magazine and bound in the folder. The newspapers are watched and all articles saved which might be of interest and are likely to be called for. These are kept in an alphabetical file until such time as they are needed. Often a continued series of articles, such as Roosevelt's African game trails, running through many numbers are taken out and sent to the bindery with other books. To make the volume more attractive, one of the best illustrations is mounted on the cover. So for 35 cents a complete volume which would otherwise cost several dollars may be obtained.

Miss Pringle recommended to librarians the convenience of having a special shelf for students on which material for special days, debates, etc., can be collected, also the importance of obtaining the programs of study clubs as early as possible in the year so that when all the resources of the library are exhausted she may know what additional material is needed. She called attention to the good material which may be obtained free of charge from the Department of Agriculture, and such organizations as the National Child Labor Committee and the World Peace Foundation. She made a special plea to librarians asking for material to state their wants in detail. It is not so difficult to find the book to help on a paper—a paper to quote from the Newarker “got-ten up on Maeterlinck, Ibsen or Sudermann or something else which sounds wise and gives you a real thirst for the tea and cucumber sandwiches.” It is not so difficult to find the books if one is sure just what phase of the subject is to be taken up. Out of a list of 31 subjects once presented by an eighth grade girl who wished to write an essay, the most hopeful were these three: Pictures on the wall, Mile-stones, Golden gossip. And one request was “Please send me something for a debate on which is the most important—arithmetic or geography. I want material on the negative.” Another anxious inquirer wrote: “Kindly give me some information on inventors. Is it true that the only article invented by woman is the spoon?” For the honor of women no time was lost in looking up inventions. During the year 1909 there were 163 requests from 164 people; 148 books and 315 magazine articles were loaned. During this

last year there were 550 requests on 613 subjects and there were sent out 397 books, 3,031 magazine articles and 65 pictures.

The reference work has grown rapidly and the Commission resources are very limited but every effort is made to do the very best possible for the clubs and students living away from the cities and larger libraries and the Commission will be only too glad for suggestions and ideas that will help them to send to these students the material they want, and to help inspire them to seek knowledge on the things worth while.

Miss Schain of the Municipal Reference Department of the Minneapolis Public Library, gave a talk on that phase of reference work. Of the material wanted for this work but a small portion is found in books. The work of a Municipal Reference Library is to get reports of committees and city councils, clipping from newspapers and magazines, writing to committees for material, etc. There is a distinct growing demand for municipal reference libraries and what is being done in a large library can be done in a small library in a smaller way, and it all tends and aims to lift up the moral standard of a community.

The value of special libraries was discussed. The Tax Commission by Miss Evans showing untiring efforts in collecting material for legislature; Board of Public Visitors by Miss Rhodes; State Historical Library Publications by Miss Hawley, all of whom gave very interesting material and suggestions on the individual work.

Mrs. Dunlap in speaking on the Genealogical Collection said that Minnesota has one of the largest collections of works on genealogy and family history to be found in the United States and that with the increase in number of patriotic societies there has grown a great demand for literature on that subject.

(The above group of papers will be published in the March number of Library Notes & News.)

Dr. J. J. Dow conducted a discussion on Public Documents. It was considered expedient for a library to use and catalog just the bulletins that that particular community would use; possibly agricultural bulletins or any others according to the demand. It is safe to say the whole question was not settled in that hour although a profitable discussion.

Mr. Ransom, of Albert Lea, told of the

valuable collection of Agricultural Experiment Station bulletins recently acquired by that library, which have been carefully indexed by subjects.

The theory that librarians must have recreation was put into practice by the Faribault people who gave the delegates an auto ride about the city, public institutions and lakes. The October foliage was gorgeous beyond description and surely Faribault had on her most becoming attire and all agreed that it was the most beautiful town in all Minnesota.

In the evening a dinner was given by the Commercial Club in the Guild Hall. Miss Palmer presided in her usual happy manner, introducing Miss Bascom, editor of the A. L. A. Booklist, whose subject was, *Some Compensations of Book-skimming*. It was most encouraging to have one having had such wide and varied experience speak so favorably of this practice. We must all do it and it is comfortable to have the custom authoritatively endorsed.

After a group of songs by Mrs. Weyerhaeuser, Dr. Weigle of Carlton College, Northfield, gave the address of the evening on "The Librarian as a Teacher." The address was so convincing and entertaining that everyone present felt absolutely willing to be either teacher or librarian or both if so dictated by the speaker.

On the morning of Friday, October 4th, was held a business meeting at which the committees on nominations and resolutions submitted their reports. The report of the nominating committee resulted in the election of Mr. J. T. Gerould of the State University Library, President; Miss Harriet Howe of the Minneapolis Public Library, Vice President, and Miss Arabel Martin of the Minneapolis Public Library, Secretary-Treasurer. (Miss Martin declined the reelection and Miss Martha Wilson, Supervisor of School Libraries, has since been appointed to this office.)

Additional members of the Executive Committee are Miss Lilly Borresen, Two Harbors, Miss Martha Chapin, Owatonna.

The committee on legislation made the following recommendations: "That Section 2255 be amended to read, 'Levy an annual tax of not more than three mills. That the law authorizing county and township extension be made more explicit, providing for a definite tax levy and a more definite mode of procedure. That the school library law

be amended to authorize school boards to house the school libraries in the public libraries when better administration can thus be obtained, and also to authorize the centralization of rural school libraries in a county library. That the association support any measure for the better housing of the Historical Library and Library Commission."

The report of the committee on resolutions was unanimously accepted as follows:

The Minnesota Library Association acknowledges with gratitude the many courtesies extended during the twentieth annual conference held at Faribault, October 24. Our heartiest appreciation is extended to Miss LeCrone and the members of the library board for the many plans and thoughtful preparations for our entertainment and comfort, and to the citizens for their cordial hospitality in opening their homes to us and the interest shown by them at each meeting. We extend our thanks also to the four literary clubs who tendered the reception on the opening night; to the Automobile Club whose kindness made it possible for us all to see the city, and to the Commercial Club for the delightful dinner on Thursday evening. We are also grateful to the institutions and the schools for the invitation to visit them, and to Dr. Bostwick, Dr. Weigle, Miss Bascom and Mrs. Weyerhaeuser, all of whom contributed so much to the success of the meeting.

The Minnesota Library Association feeling the urgent need of the support and attendance of all the librarians in the state at its annual meetings, recommends to library boards that attendance at library meetings be required of librarians, and that the boards provide for the expenses of the librarian in attending at least one library meeting, state or district, each year.

ARABEL MARTIN, Secretary.

THE ADVERTISEMENT OF IDEAS.

By DR. ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.
Librarian, St. Louis Public Library.

Writing is a device for the storage of ideas—the only device for this purpose prior to the invention of the phonograph, and not now likely to be generally superseded. A book consists of stored ideas; sometimes it is like a box, from which the contents must be lifted slowly and with more or less toil;

sometimes like a storage battery where one only has to make the right kind of contact to get a discharge. At any rate, if we want people to use books or to use them more, or to use them better, or to use a different kind from that which they now use, we must lose sight for a moment of the material part of the book, which is only the box or the lead and acid of the storage battery, and fix our attention on the stored ideas, which are what everybody wants—everybody; that is, except those who collect books as curiosities. The subject of this lecture is thus only library advertising, about which we have heard a good deal of late, but we shall try to confine its applications to this inner or ideal substance which it is our special business as librarians to purvey. And first, in considering the matter, it may be worth while to say a word about advertising in general. Practically an advertisement is an announcement by somebody who has something to distribute. Announcements of this kind may be classified, it seems to me, as economic, uneconomic and illegitimate.

The most elementary form is that of the person who tells you where you can get something that you want—a simple statement that someone is a barber or an inn-keeper, or gives music lessons, or has shoes for sale. This may be accompanied by effort to show that the goods offered are of specially good quality or have some feature that makes them particularly desirable, either to consumers in general or to those of a certain class. This is all surely economic, so long as nothing but the truth is told. Next we have an effort not only to supply existing wants and to direct them into some particular channel, but to create a new field, to make people realize a lack previously not felt; in other words to make people want something that they need. This may be done simply by exhibiting or describing the article or it may require long and skillful presentation of the matter. All this is still economic. But it requires only a step to carry us across the line. Next the enthusiastic advertiser strives to make someone want that which he does not need. As may be seen, the line here is difficult to determine, but this sort of advertising is surely not economic. So long as the thing not needed is not really injurious, however, the advertising cannot be called illegitimate. It is simply uneconomic. The world would be better off without it, but we may look

for its abolition only to the increase of good judgment and intelligence among consumers. When an attempt however, is made to cause a man to want something that is really injurious, then the act becomes illegitimate and should be prevented. Another class of illegitimate advertising is that which would be perfectly allowable if it were truthful and becomes objectionable only because its representations are false. It may be ostensibly of any of the types noted above.

As we have already noted, the material objects distributed by the librarian are valued not for their physical characteristics but for a different reason altogether, the fact that they contain stored ideas. Ideas which, according to some, are merely the relative positions of material particles in the brain, and which are indisputably accompanied and conditioned by such positions here subsist in the form of peculiar and visible arrangements of particles of printer's ink upon paper, which are capable under certain conditions of generating in the human brain ideas precisely similar to those that gave them birth. And although the book cannot think for itself, but must merely preserve the idea intrusted to it, without change, it is vastly superior in stability to the brain that gave it birth, so that thousands of years after that brain has mouldered into dust it is capable of reproducing the original ideas in a second brain where they may germinate and bear fruit. How familiar all this is, and yet how perennially wonderful. The miracle of it is sufficient excuse for this digression.

Now books, beside this modern form of distribution by loan, are widely distributed commercially both by loan and by sale, and especially in the latter form advertisement is now very extensively used in connection with the distribution. In fact we have all the different types specified above—economic, uneconomic and illegitimate, both through misrepresentation and the harmful character of the subject matter. The reason for all illegitimate forms of advertising is of course not a desire to misrepresent or to do harm per se, but to make money, the profit to the distributor being proportioned to the amount of distribution done and not at all dependent on its economic value. Distribution by public officers is of course not open to this objection, nor are the distributors subject to temptation, since their compensation does not depend

on the amount of distribution. If they are capable and interested, furthermore, they are particularly desirous to increase the economic value of the work that they are doing. Since this is so and since the danger of uneconomic or harmful forms of advertising is thus reduced to a minimum, there would seem to be special reason why the economic forms should be employed very freely. But the fact is that they have been used sparingly, and by some librarians shunned altogether.

Let us see what library advertising of the economic types may mean. In the first place it means telling those who want books where they may get them. This simple task is rarely performed completely or satisfactorily. It is astonishing how many inhabitants of a large town do not even know where the public library is. Everyone realizes this who has ever tried to find a public library in a strange place. I once asked repeatedly of passers-by in a crowded city street a block distant from a library (in this case not architecturally conspicuous) before finding one who knew its whereabouts; in another city I inquired in vain of a conductor who passed the building every few hours in his car. In the latter case the library was a beautiful structure calculated to move the curiosity of a less stolid citizen. In New York inquiry would probably cause you to reach the nearest branch library, anything more remote than that being beyond the local intelligence. Sometimes I think we had better drop all our far-reaching plans for civic betterment and devote our time for a few years to causing citizens, lettered and unlettered alike to memorize some such simple formula as this: "There is a Public Library. It is on Blank street. We may borrow books there, free."

You will notice that I have inserted in this formula one item of information that pertains to use, not location. For of those who know of the existence and location of the Public Library there are many whose ideas of its contents and their uses, and of the conditions and value of such uses, are limited and crude. The advertising that succeeds in bettering this state of things is surely doing an economic service. All these things the self-respecting citizen should know. But beyond and above all this there is the final economic service of advertising—the causing a man to want that which he

needs but does not yet desire. Every man, woman and child in every town and village needs books in some shape, degree, form or substance. And yet the proportion of those who desire them is yet outrageously small, though encouragingly on the increase. Here no memorizing of a formula, even could we compass it, could suffice. This kind of advertising means the realization of something lacking in a life. Is the awakening of such a realization too much for us? Are we to stand by and see our neighbors all about us awakening to the undoubted fact that they need telephones in their houses, and electric runabouts, and mechanical fans in hot weather, and pianolas, and new kinds of breakfast food, while we despair of awakening them to their need of books—quite as undoubted? Are we to admit that personal gain, which was the victorious motive that spurred on the commercial advertisers in these and countless other instances, is to be counted more mighty than the desire to do a service to our fellowmen and to fulfil the duties of our positions—which should spur us on?

I am not foolish enough to suppose that by placarding the fences with the words "Books! Books!" as the patent medicine man does with "Curoline! Curoline!" we shall make any progress. The patent medicine man is right; he wants to excite curiosity and to familiarize the public with the name of his nostrum. They all know what a book is—and alas the name is not even unknown and mysterious—would that it were! It calls up in many minds associations which, if we are to be successful we must combat, overthrow, and replace by others. To many—sad it is to say it—a book is an abhorrent thing; to more still, it is a thing of absolute indifference. To some a book is merely a collection of things, having no ascertainable relationships, that one is required to memorize; to others it is a collection of statements, difficult to understand, out of which the meaning must be extracted by hard study; to very few indeed does the book appear to be what it really is—a message from another mind. People will go to a seance and listen with thrills to the silliest stuff purporting to proceed from Plato or Daniel Webster or Abraham Lincoln, when in the Public Library, a few blocks away are important and authentic messages from those same persons, to which they have never given heed.

Such a message derives interest and significance from circumstances outside itself. Very few books create their own atmosphere unaided. They presuppose a system of abilities, opinions, prejudices, likes and dislikes, intellectual connections and what not, that is little less than appalling, if we try to follow it up. Dislike of books or indifference toward them is often simply the result of a lack of these things or of some component part of them. We must supply what is lacking if we are to arouse a desire for books in those who do not yet possess it. I say that such a labor is difficult enough to interest him whose pleasure it is to essay hard tasks; it is noble enough to attract him who loves his fellowman; success in it is rare enough and glorious enough to stimulate him who likes to succeed where others have failed. Advertising may be good or bad, noble or ignoble, right or wrong, according to what is advertised and our methods of advertising it. He who would scorn to announce the curative powers of bottled spring-water and pink aniline dye; he who regards it as a commonplace task to urge upon the spendthrift public the purchase of unnecessary gloves and neckties, may well feel a thrill of satisfaction and of anticipation in the task of advertising ideas and of persuading the unheeding citizen to appropriate what he has been accustomed to view with indifference.

To get at the root of the matter, let us inquire why it is that so many persons do not care for books. We may divide them, I think, into two classes—those who do not care, or appear not to care for ideas at all, whether stored in books or not; and those who do care for ideas but who either do not easily get them out of storage or do not realize that they can be and are stored in books. Absolute carelessness of ideas is, it seems to me, rather apparent than real. It exists only in the idiot. There are those to be sure that care about a very limited range of ideas; but about some ideas they always care.

We must, in our advertisement of ideas, bear this in mind—the necessity of offering to each that which he considers it worth his while to take. If I were asked what is the most fundamentally interesting subject to all classes, I should unhesitatingly reply “philosophy.” Not, perhaps, the philosophy of the schools, but the individual philosophy that every man and woman has, and that is

precisely alike in no two of us. I have heard a tiny boy, looking up suddenly from his play, ask “Why do we live?” This and its correlative “Why do we die?” Whence come we and whither do we go? What is the universe and what are our relations to it—these questions in some form have occurred to everyone who thinks at all. They are discussed around the stove at the corner grocery, in the logging camp, on the ranch, in clubs and at boarding-house tables. Sometimes they take a theological turn—free will, the origin and purpose of evil, and so on. I do not purpose to give here a catalogue of the things in which an ordinary man is interested, and I have said this only to remind you that his interest may be vivid even in connection with subjects usually considered abstruse. This interest in ideas we may call the library’s raw material; anything that tends to create it, to broaden it, to extend it to new fields and to direct it into paths that are worth while is making it possible for the library to do better and wider work—is helping on its campaign of publicity. This establishes a web of connecting fibers between the library and all human activity. The man who is getting interested in his work, debaters at a labor union, students at school and college, the worker for civic reform, the poetic dreamer—all are creating a demand for ideas that makes it easier for the library to advertise them. Those who object to some of the outside work done by modern libraries should try to look at the whole matter from this standpoint. The library is taking its place as a public utility with other public utilities. Its relations with them are becoming more evident; the ties between them are growing stronger. As in all cases of such growth it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify the boundaries between them, so fast and so thoroughly do the activities of each reach over these lines and interpenetrate those of the others. And unless there is actual wasteful duplication of work, we need not bother about our respective spheres. These activities are all human; they are mutually interesting and valuable. A library need be afraid of doing nothing that makes for the spread of interest in ideas, so long as it is not neglecting its own particular work of the collection, preservation and distribution of ideas as stored in books, and is not duplicating other’s work wastefully.

When we observe those who are already interested in ideas, however, we find that not all are interested in them as they are stored up in books. Some of these cannot read; their number is small with us and growing smaller; we may safely leave the schools to deal with them. Others can read, but they do not easily apprehend ideas through print. Some of these must read aloud so that they may get the sound of the words, before these really mean anything to them. These persons need practice in reading. They get it now largely through the newspapers, but their number is still large. A person in this condition may be intellectually somewhat advanced. He may be able to discuss single-tax with some acumen, for instance. It is a mistake to suppose that because a person understands a subject or likes a thing and is able to talk well about it, he will enjoy and appreciate a book on that subject or thing. It may be as difficult for him to get at the meat of it as if it were a half-understood foreign tongue. You who know enough French to buy a pair of gloves or sufficient German to inquire the way to the station, may tackle a novel in the original and realize at once the hazy degree of such a person's apprehension. He may stick to it and become an easy reader, but on the other hand your well-meant publicity efforts may place in his hands a book that will simply discourage and ultimately repel him, sending him to join the army of those to whom no books appeal.

Next we find those who understand how to read and to read with ease, but to whom books—at any rate certain classes of books—are not interesting. Now interest in a subject may be so great that one will wade through the driest literature about it, but such interest belongs to the few—not to the many. I have come to the conclusion that more readers have had their interest killed or lessened by books than have had it aroused or stimulated. This is a proportion that it is our business as librarians to reverse. More of this unfortunate and heart-breaking, interest-killing work than I like to think of goes on in school. Not necessarily; for the name of those is legion who have had their eyes opened to the beauties of literature by good teachers. This makes it all the more maddening when we think how many poor teachers, or good teachers with mistaken methods, or indifferent teach-

ers, have succeeded in associating with books in the minds of their pupils simply burdensome tasks—the gloom and heaviness of life rather than its joy and lightness. Such boys and girls will no more touch a book after leaving school than you or I would touch a scorpion after one had stung us.

Perhaps it is useless to try to change this; possibly it is none of our business, though we have already seen that there are reasons to the contrary. But we can better matters, and we are daily bettering them, by our work with children. If a child has once learned to love books and to associate them powerfully with something else than a burdensome task, then the labors of the unskillful teacher will create no dislike of the book but only of the teacher and his methods; while these of the good teacher will be a thousand times more fruitful than otherwise.

So much for the ways in which interesting books are sometimes made uninteresting. Now for the books that are uninteresting *per se*—and how many there are! When a man has something to distribute commercially for personal gain, the thing that he tries above all to do is to interest his public—to make them want what he has to sell. His success or failure in doing this, means the success or failure of his whole enterprise. He does not decide what kind of an entertainment his clients ought to attend and then try to make them go to it, or what kind of neckties they ought to wear and then try to make them wear them. Of ten promoters, if nine proceeded on this principle and one on the plan of offering something attractive and interesting, who would succeed? It is one of the marvels of all time that this never seems to have occurred to writers of books. We are almost forced to conclude that they do not care whether their volumes are read or not. In only one class of books, as a rule, do the writers endeavor to interest the reader first and foremost; you all know that I refer to fiction. What is the result? The writers of fiction are the ones read by the public. More fiction is read, as you very well know, than all the other classes of literature put together. The library that is able to show a fiction percentage of 60, points to it with pride, while there are plenty with percentages between 70 and 80. Now this is all to the credit of the fiction writers. I refuse

to believe that their readers are any more fundamentally interested in the subjects of which they treat than in others. They simply follow the line of least resistance. They want something interesting to read and they know from experience where to go for it. Of course this brings on abuses. Writers use illegitimate methods to arouse interest—appeals perhaps, to unworthy instincts. We need not discuss that here, but simply focus our attention on the fact that writers of fiction always try to be interesting because they must; while writers of history, travel, biography and philosophy do not usually try, because they think it unnecessary. This is simply a survival. It used to be true that readers of these subjects read them because of their great antecedent interest in them—an interest so great that interesting methods of presentation became unnecessary. No one cared about the masses, still less about what they might or might not read. Things are changed now; we are trying to advertise stored ideas to persons unfamiliar with them and we are suddenly awakening to the fact that our stock is not all that it should be. We need history, science and travel fascinatingly presented—at least as interestingly as the fiction-writer presents his subjects. This is by no means impossible, because it has been done, in a few instances. We are by no means in the position of the Irishman who didn't know whether or not he could play the piano, because he had never tried. Some of our authors have tried—and succeeded. No one after William James can say that philosophy cannot be made interesting to the ordinary reader. Tyndall showed us long ago that physics could interest the unlearned, and there are similarly interesting writers on history and travel—more perhaps in these two classes than any other. But it remains true that the vast majority of non-fiction books do not attract, and were not written with the aim of attracting, the ordinary reader such as the libraries are now trying to reach. The result is that the fiction writers are usurping the functions of these uninteresting scribes and are putting history, science, economics, biology, medicine—all sorts of subjects, into fictional form—a sufficient answer to any who may think that the subjects themselves, as distinguished from the manner in which they are presented, are calculated to repel the ordinary reader.

Fiction is thus becoming, if it has not already become, the sole form of literary expression, so far as the ordinary reader is concerned. This is interesting; it justifies the large stock of fiction in public libraries and the large circulation of that stock. It does not follow that it is commendable or desirable. For one thing it places truth and falsehood precisely on the same plane. The science or the economics in a good novel may be bad and that in a poor novel may be good. Then again, it dilutes the interesting matter with triviality. It is right that those who want to know how and when and under what circumstances Edwin and Angelina concluded to get married should have an opportunity of doing so, but it is obviously unfair that the man who likes the political discussions put into the mouth of Edwin's uncle, or the clever descriptions of country-life incident to the courtship, should be burdened with information of this sort, in which he has little interest.

To those who are interested in the increase of non-fiction percentages I would therefore say: devise some means of working upon the authors. These gentry are yet ignorant of the existence of a special library public. Some day they will wake up, and then fiction will be relieved from the burden that oppresses it at present—of carrying most of the interesting philosophy, religion, history and social science, in addition to doing its own proper work.

Meanwhile the librarian, who is interested in advertising ideas, must do what he can with his material. There is still a saving remnant of interesting non-fiction, and there is a goodly body of readers whose antecedent interest in certain subjects is great enough to attract them to almost any book on those subjects. I have purposely avoided the discussion here of the details of library publicity, which has been well done elsewhere; but I cannot refrain from expressing my opinion that the ordinary work of the library and its stock of books if properly displayed, are more effective than any other means that can be used for the purpose. From a series of articles entitled "How to Start Libraries in Small Towns" by A. M. Pendleton. I quote the following, which appears in *The Library Journal* for May 31, 1877:

"Plant it [the library] among the people, where its presence will be seen and felt.
* * * Other things being equal, it is bet-

ter to have it upon the first floor, so that passers-by will see its goodly array of books and be tempted to inspect them."

Excellent advice; we might take it if we had not built our libraries as far away from the street as possible and lifted them up on as high a pedestal as our money would buy. Who, passing by a modern library building, branch or central, can by any possibility see through the windows enough of the interior to tell whether it is a library rather than a postoffice, a bank, or an office?

Before moving into its new home the St. Louis Public Library occupied temporarily a business building having a row of six large plate-glass windows on one side, directly on the sidewalk, enabling passers-by to see clearly all that went on in the adult lending-delivery room. The effect on the circulation was noteworthy. During the last months of our occupancy we went further and utilized each of the windows for a book display. This was in charge of a special committee of the staff, and its results were beyond expectation. In one window we had a shelf-ful of current books, open to attractive pictures, with a sign reminding wayfarers that they might be taken out by cardholders and that cards were free. In another, we had standard works, without pictures, but open at attractive pages. In another we had children's books; in another, open reference or art books in a dust-proof case—and so on. Each of these windows was seldom without its contingent of gazers, and the direct effect on library circulation was noticed by all. At the end of the year we moved into our great million-and-a-half-dollar building; and beautiful as it is—satisfactory as are its arrangements—we have had—alas—to give up our show windows. We can, it is true, have show cases in the great entrance hall, but we want to attract outsiders, not insiders. Some of our enthusiastic staff want to build permanent show cases on the sidewalk. What we may possibly do is to rent real show windows opposite. What we do not desire, is to abandon our publicity plan altogether. But when, oh when shall we have libraries (branches at any rate, if our main buildings must be monumental) that will throw themselves open to the public eye, luring in the wayfarer to the joys of reading, as the commercial window does to the delights of gumdrops or neckties?

One of the greatest steps ever taken to-

ward the advertisement of ideas was the adoption, on a large scale, of the open shelf. This throws the books of a library, or many of them, open to public inspection and handling; it encourages "browsing"—the somewhat aimless rambling about and dipping here and there into a volume.

If we are to present ideas to our would-be readers in great variety, hoping that among them there may be toothsome bait, surely there could be no better way than this. The only trouble is that it appeals only to those who are already sufficiently interested in stored ideas to enter the library.

We must remember, however, that by our method of sending out books for home use we are making a great open-shelf of the whole city. While the number of volumes in any one place may be small, the books are constantly changing so that the non-reader has a good chance of seeing in his friend's house something that may attract him. That this may affect the use of the library it is essential that he who sees a library book on the table or in the hands of a fellow passenger on a car must be able to recognize its source at once, so that, if attracted, he may be led thither by the suggestion. Nothing is better for this purpose than the library seal, placed on the book where all may see it; and that all may recognize it, it should also be used wherever possible, in connection with the library—on letter heads, posters, lists, pockets and cards, so that the public association between its display and the work of the library shall become strong.

This making the whole outstanding supply of circulating books an agency in our publicity scheme for ideas is evidently more effective as the books better fit and satisfy their users; for in that case we have an unpaid agent with each book. The adaptation of book to user helps our advertisement of ideas, and that in turn aids us in adapting book to user. When a dynamo starts, the newly arisen current makes the field stronger and that in turn increases the current. Only here we must have just a little residual magnetism in the field magnet to start the whole process. In the library's work the residual magnetism is represented by the latent interest in ideas that is present in every community. And I can do no better, in closing, than to emphasize the fact that everything that advertises ideas, even if totally unconnected with their re-

corded form in books, helps the library and pushes forward its work.

Itself a product of the great extension of intellectual activity to classes in which it was formerly bounded by narrow limits, the library is bound to widen those limits wherever they can be stretched, and every movement of them reacts to help it. Surely advertisement on its part is an evangel—a bearing of good intellectual tidings into the darkness. We are spiritualistic mediums in the best sense—the bearers of authentic messages from all the good and great of past or present time; only with us, no turning on of the light, no publicity however glaring, will break the spell or do otherwise than aid, for whether we succeed or fail, whether we live or die, those messages, recorded as they are in books, will stand while humanity remains.

THE LIMITATIONS OF THE SMALL LIBRARY.

By MISS PERRIE JONES, Wabasha.

The limitations of a library that has an income of \$1,000 a year is my subject, and let me likewise call your attention to the difficulties which a library with considerably less than \$1,000 must encounter. What we need and can't have, is the problem to be considered intelligently, without excitement, and yet forcibly.

First of all, why can't we have more? Is our appetite Oliver Twistian? Is it that our towns are too poor to provide for us suitably? A levy or an appropriation is passed in ten minutes for a new fire hall, cement gutters, new bridges, or good roads, and our libraries languish from insufficient sustenance. In most cases there is the money in the public treasury, but it is too readily averted into other channels, and that on account of ignorance of libraries and what they can accomplish or lack of interest in them on the part of our city fathers. That then I take it, is the greatest need of our small libraries—recognition and the logic result, appreciation. I will acknowledge that in some towns it seems the politic thing not to push the matter of increased appropriation, as for instance, one town is fighting the liquor question and any increase in taxes will be seized by the opponents as an argument for saloons. That, however, is the exception. Another point in the matter is this: I know that councils feel

that an increase this year is perhaps only a bad precedent, that you will come back with moving pleas next year and so on ad absurdum. For that reason it is by all odds the best way to estimate in figures your approximate needs, let it cover them sensibly, but have an eye to other needs of your town. Make it a business-like proposition. Then when you know what you must have to run your institution adequately, and feel that the expense for that is only proportionate with other expenses of your town, insist upon it. From my own experience, if I could get the appropriation I need for this year I wouldn't ask for further increase next year and I have tried to keep the council aware of that fact. There is in each of our towns an opportunity to be economical by wise investment, a point not generally appreciated. You cannot begin to get profits from any business until sufficient capital has been expended to put your project in good working order. It is not the man nor the city that hordes that realizes the greatest good from his or its wealth, but the one that spends wisely. I have mentioned the fact that ignorance and consequent lack of interest keeps our libraries inefficient, gross ignorance on the part of the community often epitomized in the personnel of the city council. How shall a change in that state of affairs be effected? Too often it seems impossible, as one needs money to conduct an advertising campaign and one must be advertised and that successfully to get the money. Our sister librarian in Spring Valley is meeting this problem intelligently and I may add, economically, in keeping the matter continually before the public by a series of press articles which she prepares, setting forth each time, one specific, definite need, enlarging upon it and explaining the matter fully. She then with accurate information at her command, gives the cost of such a proposed purchase. In this way she is appealing not only to the council but also to the community at large with the hope of voluntary contribution to supplement their present income. The local papers cannot be overestimated in their appeal, keep your library and its doings in the limelight. Rather have its readers tire by seeing the name than be ignorant of its existence. I felt the justice of an unconscious criticism in our own library, which I overheard not long ago. A councilman was talking to one of his colleagues after a

rather stubborn session in which I had tried to make them see the wisdom of increased appropriation. The remark was just this: "Why, I don't know nothin' about that library; never been in it; hardly knew there was one." And I may add, in spite of the fact that several of his own children were borrowers. Another remark illustrative of the feeling which is often met and must be overcome is this: "Why didn't our ancestors give us libraries if they are so important, they didn't have them." And the reply which flashed from a friendly council member I must add. "You might as well ask why your father didn't buy you the coat you've got on."

In a way I should say that opposition is to be courted, it is a big step past indifference, it sets people talking, it arouses interest and curiosity. Don't be afraid of it. Out of every campaign that a library carries on for money, it gets a great deal of cheap advertising. One method that I might suggest as useful in both the money and advertising problems is this: Get a list of perhaps thirty of your highest city taxpayers, then make a thorough canvass asking each to sign some such statement as this: "I am in favor of having a progressive library in our town and approve of the increase of \$100 or \$200 (whatever it may be), in its appropriation for the year 1913." In this way you get to know exactly the popular ideas in regard to the project you are working for, and you have a powerful agent by which to move your council. By the way, do not be surprised—and this is for the librarians—if you are met with insinuations, if not direct questions as to whether you are not agitating this increase so as to raise your own salary by \$25 or \$30. There always will be people who cannot see you kick a banana skin off the walk without thinking you must have seen a nickel under it.

Now for a few limitations that occur in the library proper. There are about 30 towns in this state getting from \$1,000 down to \$250 per year. Though my knowledge is far greater concerning the \$250 variety, I imagine that the problems must, many of them, be identical. Whatever generalizations I shall make will be based partly upon some statistics furnished by the Library Commission, and partly upon the replies to letters I sent out to about fourteen libraries. One report particularly was very help-

ful not only in its facts but in the suggestions I derived from it. Going back to our thirty towns, about two-thirds are over the \$500 mark. Now this point comes up, while a very few are pathetically low in book purchase, hovering around \$25 and \$50 annually, the big majority are all over \$100, varying from that to \$250—so that the range of book money seems to be far less than the range of appropriations. Many \$500 towns spend as much as those in the \$1,000 class, a fact which leads one to this deduction, that a \$1,000 library is really poorer for books than the smaller one, and when one adds the greater demand made on the larger library, the fact is, you will see, worthy of attention. You see I have hit at once on books as the great need. We undoubtedly need kindergarten chairs for the story hour, rubber mats for the reading room, and linoleum for the basement, pictures and retinting on the walls, but everything fades away before that growing and insistent need, of more and better books. They are the *pièce de resistance* while the previously mentioned things are the *entrées*, appetizing, but not sufficient in themselves. I have heard prominent educators speak disparagingly on the growing tendency to use the library for everything—a play room, a waiting room, a day nursery, a club room, a place for night school, and divers other things—and incidentally dispensing a few books. There may be some truth in such a charge, but I think we are agreed that we must be more than a mere library, to be any library at all. It must be an agent of progress and that I believe is to come through a broad education, whether that education shall take the form of caring for a baby so that the mother can provide better food and warmer clothes, or furnishing material for a graduating essay. Any honorable means for accomplishing that end is not only allowable, but laudable. However, we must not forget the end in working with the means—as Stevenson says, "We must be able to see the forest in spite of the leaves." So books we must have. We must have them to satisfy our customers. There is no use to arouse the public interest if you cannot hold it. People today resent the cry of "Wolf!" even more than in the days of the fable. And in this matter of books, let us specialize on those for children. If the library can draw the children we need not worry about the adult attendance. And

for them many more volumes must be purchased than for the older ones as they read omnivorously if they read at all, their books are smaller, and much more quickly worn out. Let then the children's shelves be well stocked with attractive books and good ones, interesting and well illustrated. Now for the big children—those in school. I am safe, I think, in saying that no library here represented has sufficient reference books. A recent encyclopedia and a good dictionary are often lacking. Besides the bare foundations of a good reference library, we all could use to such good advantage an index, the Reader's Guide preferably. Mr. Wilson has issued many publications which are at once the joy and despair of every librarian; they fill such a long-felt want, but are rather expensive. However, with the Reader's Guide on your reference table many book purchases will be rendered unnecessary. This with the magazines bound would make an excellent aid.

I am leaving the discussion of the other necessities and limitations to those who have had more experience. The two planks in my platform of needs are these: **Recognition** first of all, and then **Books**.

COUNTY EXTENSION.

Steele County, Martha Chapin, Librarian, Owatonna.

In education, nothing is more significant than the present move to break from the old order of things and to popularize education. The work of Madame Montessori in Italy in the School of Childhood, is phenomenal and all over the country we have the open-air schools and schools for abnormals. The ideal now is the attainment of character rather than success, of wisdom rather than knowledge. The country schools are consolidating, and the city and town libraries are reaching out into the country and extending their sphere of influence.

The law making county extension in Minnesota possible is an enabling act, permitting any "board of directors to contract with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is situated or of adjacent counties, or with the village trustees or governing body of any neighboring town, city or village to loan the books of said library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to the residents of said county, town, city or village, upon such

terms as shall be agreed upon in such contract. All such boards or officers are hereby empowered to make contracts for such purposes, and to pay the considerations agreed upon out of the county, town or village treasury." (As amended by chapter 257, laws of 1905).

In Steele county, the extension plan was started in 1904, and during that year state traveling libraries were loaned to the Owatonna library for circulation in the county. The appropriation from the county commissioners was increased from \$300 in 1904 to \$500 in 1905, and eight traveling libraries averaging 40 volumes each were made up by the Owatonna library to replace the state traveling libraries in Steele county. We are now supporting 12 stations; the circulation in 1911 was 4,907 of which 37 per cent was non-fiction.

We send from 25 to 50 books to each station, some to creameries, general stores, railroad stations and private homes. The books are exchanged every six months and we receive circulation statistics every month from the persons in charge. Notices are posted in the various villages drawing attention to the traveling library and we have sent typewritten lists of the books at each station to the residents of that district. We have had several Library Sundays in the county when the ministers have helped spread the "gospel of good books" from their pulpits. One station is in the midst of a German settlement, so we had some German magazines distributed after the sermon and did not allow one person to go away empty-handed.

Try to meet with the county teachers as often as possible—for you can do wonders if they will co-operate with you. Start a picture collection and urge the county teachers to use it. We have mounted geographical and historical pictures, pictures of birds and animals, portraits and a great many others that will aid the school teacher.

Attend a grange meeting and become acquainted with the farmers and their problems. Organize a literary club if possible. We have two literary clubs outside of our own city, and the members come to our library for suggestions as to their programs and we send them reference books to be kept through the club year. Meet your rural constituents outside your library as well as inside. If there is a teachers' institute for the county teachers held during

the year, make it a point to be present at one or more meetings coming in personal contact with the teachers and their work. Identify yourself and thereby your library with every movement for the betterment of country life.

Could you not plan a Library Exhibit at your county fair? Obtain an exhibition booth from the officials, and arrange your agricultural books in an attractive manner, display the magazines and newspapers you keep on file in your reading room, and make the opportunities of your library as well known to the people of your county as to those of your city.

The benefit that the county extension is to the schools is one of its most significant features. The rural schools often have access only to the supply of their own library which is usually rather limited, but by co-operation under the county system, whereby each school has access to a large central library and by judicious arrangement so they will not all come for the same material at the same time, each school can have the use of many times the books it has had, with even less cost to the county.

I could continue indefinitely on the possibilities of good in the working out of the county free library plan. There are many opportunities untouched before, for bringing the library to the people, and it surely is a most powerful means to the end that all people should have opportunities of education provided by a perfect system of library service.

Washington County, Clara Conway, Librarian, Stillwater.

The Stillwater Public Library adopted the county plan in 1904, when \$300 was appropriated by the county commissioners. The appropriation has gradually been increased until now we have \$400 annually.

At first all residents of the county, outside of the city of Stillwater were invited to come to the library and make free use of the books and other material. Many who were near enough to the library were glad to avail themselves of this privilege. Some however, in the remote districts were not able to take advantage of this offer. Such cases call for a system which will carry the books to the people, and the most available plan seems to be by means of the traveling library. Accordingly, with the help of the

Minnesota Library Commission, a few libraries were sent to different stations. A little later, with the fund appropriated by the county commissioners, books were bought, placed in library cases, and sent out from the Stillwater library. The work has been slow for there were many difficulties to overcome, but it certainly has been proved that county extension, or the circulation of books through the county is as necessary as the placing of a library in the city.

Each traveling library consists of 50 volumes, selected with great care, and sent out in neatly made cases, with shelves and double doors, a real bookcase in fact. A store or some public place has been found to be the best place for the library. After resting in a community for about six months, more or less, the library is returned to the main library to be examined, books mended and rebound, and then sent to some other station, the first station receiving a new library. If wear and tear attest to the usefulness of the books it can readily be seen that they have been useful indeed. To the smaller communities books taken directly from the shelves of the main library are sent in boxes containing 25 volumes. These libraries consist largely of fiction and are exchanged four or five times a year, but have proved very popular.

There are now twelve stations in Washington county supplied with books. Ten libraries in all have been equipped and sent out at the rate of about two in a year.

Each station has a librarian in charge whose services are voluntary. The work done in each place attests to the efficiency of those having the libraries in charge. Each librarian makes a report to the main library at the end of each month.

Report of the Circulation for 1911.

Books issued to county residents from main library	2,407
Number of county borrowers.....	267
Books issued from traveling libraries..	3,375
Number of borrowers from traveling libraries	415

Lake County, Lilly M. E. Borresen, Librarian, Two Harbors.

Of all the counties in the state of Minnesota doing county extension work I can think of only one where the work might vie with Lake county in the sum total of interesting experiences. That one is Itasca

county and even that does not have fishing hamlets

By the shores of Gitchee Gumees
By the shining Big-Sea-Water

that can be reached only by steamer three times a week during the summer months and a visit to which involves an at first sight rather precarious transfer of woman and baggage from the steamer to a small rowboat before the shore is reached. In these communities horses are as scarce as in Venice and buggies and wagons are an almost unknown luxury. These people think nothing of walking seven or eight miles for their mail, and a librarian who wishes to do work among them must become a good pedestrian as well as a good sailor if she does not wish to waste time waiting for two or three days for the next boat to take her to the next station down the shore. If the lake is calm she may have the good fortune to get a gasoline boat to take her on. The absence of horses and vehicles seemed very strange until the county superintendent, likewise a woman, and myself last fall secured one of the rare spring wagons and drove eight miles to the nearest station on a logging railway rather than wait for the next steamer because a Northeaster was coming up and we might be storm-bound for several days. It took us three hours to drive the eight miles, and we were so shaken about in the seat that we had to hold on to each other and the sides of the seat in order not to be left by the roadside. Since then I have walked that distance in about the same time and found it very enjoyable in spite of the necessity of climbing over huge windfalls every once in a while. Several of our stations can be reached by railroad, but don't for a moment imagine it is anything as prosaic as a regular passenger railway coach with its more or less well dressed men and women and its stations with distinctive names. It is merely an accommodation coach on a logging railway filled with lumberjacks with their axes and all their other worldly belongings stowed away in what the people of the North term a "pack," but which before I knew better I used to call a knapsack. The librarian and county superintendent are apt to be the only women passengers and it not infrequently happens that a couple of quarrelsome lumberjacks have to be forcibly ejected by the brakeman. The stations are section houses or

shanties, and your instructions to reach a certain school house or settler require you to get off at Milepost 22 or 43, or perhaps Camp 4.

The work of establishing traveling library stations in Lake county was commenced in February, 1911, but on account of the difficulty of reaching most of the places, not much was done until May of that year. We now have ten stations while our ambition is to have twenty-three; in other words, just as many library stations as there are school houses. This ambition may possibly not be wholly realized, however, as it is quite the fashion in Lake county to build a school house for only one or two families with three to ten children in attendance. Some of our collections are practically family libraries, rather than community collections, but our policy is, so far as we are able, to give every person who cares to read a chance to get a good book either in English or a foreign tongue. The circulation up to June, 1912, which would mean one year for most stations, was 1,580, and the number of borrowers was 192 with 245 volumes in circulation; in other words, an average of 8.2 volumes per borrower and 6.4 circulation per volume. Stations are situated in depot, mining office, lumber company's office, fisherman's home and in homesteader's log cabin.

Whatever may be the case in other counties, in Lake county it seems that very little extension work can be accomplished through ordinary advertising in newspapers or through correspondence. Personal visits are necessary as well for starting the library as for keeping up the interest. These pioneer people living under conditions such as we read about in southern Minnesota and Wisconsin 40-50 years ago, and laboriously digging out the stumps and clearing their land acre by acre, whose love of hunting, fishing and trapping belongs to an almost forgotten period in this thickly settled part of the state, are not the kind who will make any great effort to get hold of a book; and yet, who knows, there may be a Lincoln among them.

Successful work with them has even seemed to demand of the librarian that she should spend part of her vacation for two summers in their midst in order that she might learn to know the country and the people's needs better. But the confidence

once gained, she has wonderful opportunities for bringing them in contact with other blessings of civilization besides books. A daughter of a fisherman down the shore is now taking a course in domestic science—a thing sorely needed in her home—in the Two Harbors High School because the librarian was able to make the necessary arrangements; and a Two Harbors clergyman is soon to begin holding services once a month in one of the school houses on the Alger-Smith logging road through this same influence. These people usually have a vague idea that they want such things, but don't know just how to proceed in order to get them. We have still a great deal to learn about civilization made easy from Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward.

I wish I had time to tell you in detail about Beaver Bay, the oldest settlement in the county, whither the mail until five or six years ago had to be brought by dog team in winter; where there is a log store that reminds one of the fur-trading posts that one reads about and where the borrowers' cards bear such names as Mary Beargrease; or about a thirteen-mile walk to a dance in a Finnish socialist hall in order to size up the people and see what opportunities there might be for a collection of Finnish books; or about Section 30, the only mining location in the county right in the midst of a forest of primeval pines where the procession formed as we came home from a meeting held in the school house when the traveling library station was established there, would have made a picture similar to that familiar one of the Pilgrim fathers returning from the meeting house.

There may be some hardships such as wretched sleeping accommodations and poor food connected with the efforts of a missionary of the book in Lake county, but if she be a lover of the out-of-doors, as well as of books, the delight of a long tramp through the woods with a gun in the partridge season or the chance of a day's fishing along some rushing, roaring brook with here and there quiet, crystal pools where the speckled trout love to linger, not to mention the comfortable feeling that she is bringing to these people one of the greatest gifts of civilization, will far outweigh the hardships and will prove a veritable fountain of youth to her.

Olmsted County, Edna Emerick, Librarian, Rochester.

After receiving the appropriation last January for county extension, the library board decided to establish 12 stations as soon as possible. January 31, a 50-volume case was sent to Orinoco, in February cases were sent to Viola, Marion and Douglas, and in March and April to Simpson, Stewartville, Pleasant Grove and Salem Corner, making 10 cases out at the present time.

Besides the libraries sent in this way, a number of people have been taking from 5 to 20 books at a time and circulating them in their own neighborhoods, in addition to many borrowers who draw merely for their own families.

As it was found that most of the rural school libraries had very few books for the younger children, we have supplied primers and books of easy reading for the little people, whenever the teachers cared to have them. From Byron, four teachers have been to the library and selected from 5 to 12 books for supplementary reading, they have also had access to the library sent to Byron. Stewartville not only has the regular libraries of 50 volumes, but we have supplied most of the books used by the study clubs for this year's work.

Our returns have been quite satisfactory considering the fact that the library was closed for some weeks on account of scarlet fever and that people were afraid of contagion for several months afterwards. We have had a total circulation of about 6,000 volumes from country patrons alone, and as there are a number of the libraries to be returned next month, we feel we can safely count on a circulation of 7,000 for the year.

Several copies of popular books have been bought, so that country patrons may have the same opportunities as those in the city.

The expressions of appreciation of the pleasure derived from the use of the books, show a strong approval of this movement on the part of people in the country. One enterprising patron draws books both from Orinoco and Douglas, and six families in her neighborhood read them before they are returned.

Meeker County, Mrs. Alice A. Lamb, Librarian, Litchfield.

In April of this year the county commissioners granted the library \$200. In asking aid of the county, emphasis has always been

placed on the need of building up a strong central reference library. Material is furnished to clubs throughout the county—whenever desired. Traveling libraries are sent to any district asking for them.

Last year twelve 25 and 50-volume libraries were loaned. These were in most instances in charge of teachers. Many of the county teachers have their homes in Litchfield, and they are allowed at any time to take any books desired, and keep the same a month or longer if needed.

The reference material is especially appreciated by debaters, who come even from the most remote parts of the county.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

By ALBERTA ACKERMAN, Cannon Falls.

Whether the school library as a public library is a success in Cannon Falls cannot be determined yet, for the experiment was begun only last April.

There is no question that the location of the school building has much to do with the circulation, and were our building nearer the business portion of the town, more of the public would use the library.

In the new addition to the school building a room was set aside for the library. Miss Carey came in April and spent a week in organizing it. Since then the pupils in the grades and high school have been much interested. Parents, who do not come themselves, send for books by their children. Through vacation the library was opened once a week and the interest has continued.

The women's clubs and the public have contributed to the funds for purchasing books. In a town where there is no public library it would seem advisable to open the school library to the public, thereby making it stronger, if receiving support from other sources than the school. It will tend to bring the people of the community and the school closer together because of this common interest, and it will hasten the time for making a greater use of the school building and developing a social center. There is no greater field for this work or a more crying need than in our small towns.

We already have found this—that a librarian who will devote all of her time to the work is most essential. It would be most profitable to have the community unite with

the school in securing a librarian. Then the room could be open all the afternoon and evening.

No teacher has the time to carry on the work as it should be done. In our school the pupils of the training department of the high school assist in caring for the library. They are learning how to care for books, are becoming more familiar with children's literature, and this along with the study of the catalogue and suggestive lists for school libraries compiled by Miss Wilson, also general talks, and the outlining of books read, according to outlines given by Miss Wilson, all these things are helping to make the pupils ready and anxious to push the work in the school libraries when in their rural schools next year.

Right here I would like to say that I feel that the reading of the twenty-five volumes in the teachers' traveling library should be a part of the work in English in our training departments.

The class of last year became very enthusiastic, all are teaching this year, and next week when they send their reports, I am confident that everyone will be found trying to make the school library stand for something in their school.

In conclusion let me repeat this: that in towns where there is no public library, by all means allow the public to use the school library having them help in maintaining it, and there must be a regular librarian.

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY AS A PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCH.

By LURA HUTCHINSON, Seward School, Minneapolis.

The library which I represent is one of those experiments so much advocated by conservationists nowadays in their efforts to put to the greatest possible use, the expensive school buildings which formerly spent a good deal of their time in idleness. It is neither a school library nor a public library but a combination of the two, and as the idea of social centers is also involved in the plans of these conservationists, the library perforce must form its policy accordingly. We have tried to do something in all three of these capacities, but as the branch is still young, not yet having lived through its first winter, it is too soon to speak with great confidence about what has actually been accomplished. We have the-

ories and plans which we are trying to work out, but you will please remember that they are not the result of long experience, and therefore you are at perfect liberty to question and modify them as much as you choose. The easiest capacity in which to begin work was of course as a school library, for the community was immediately at hand to work with, nay more, it even thrust itself into one's hand and demanded attention. The first question that seemed to need consideration was one of manners, and systematically and consistently we devoted our attention to the removing of caps, the use of "Please" and "Thank you," the idea of taking turns, of not fighting when your struggles were apt to inconvenience your neighbors, of not yelling from one side of the room to the other and so on, through all the endless category of offenses which children seem to delight in. That of course was incidental to the regular library work which we were trying to get into some semblance of order. The lesson is not yet completely learned, and never will be, but at least it has reached the point where a lift of the eyebrows will now cause the hasty removal of delinquent caps, and a reasonably gentle hush does service instead of threats of violence.

Some experience in this first month proved to me that the children were eager to know about the arrangement of books, their classification and so on, and incited by this and by the heads of the library and the school, I gave a series of five talks for the benefit of the seventh and eighth grades, meeting each grade for fifteen minutes once a week. These talks were based on Ward's Practical use of books and libraries, and the children were much interested. One of the finest compliments I ever received, I think, came one day when after a particularly strenuous lesson they showed their interest by applauding as if they really meant it. There were about seventy young wigglers in each class so that the lessons had to be strenuous or fail utterly. A teacher told me the other day that when the children in her room came to open their new school books this fall, they watched her open one unthinkingly, and as the uninstructed do, though she knew better, and then asked if they should do it that way or as I had told them, and almost without fail they had remembered the proper method. We had one lesson on the Reader's Guide in which they

were much interested and which I later discovered was an unknown quantity even to the teachers. Such a talk given to the high school students in the fall or winter when they could follow it up at once by practical use would be most helpful both to librarians and students. The more they know about the library, the more interest they will feel in it, and the more capable they will be of using all its wealth to the best advantage without fear of making absurd blunders, a fear which, as I know by experience keeps many from using the library at all. This year the principal requests that the talks be more on the kind of books to read with the purpose of arousing their interest in good books. The same result has been obtained in a measure by posting book lists on the shelves where they can refer to them easily every time they look for a book, and by working through the teachers, but of course the field is limitless. Even after nine months of effort, the taste of many of them is still so perverted that they prefer Ragged Dick to King Arthur. Yet the teachers, a kind and sympathetic group of co-workers say with great positiveness that they can see very decided evidences of improvement in the tone of the books read by the children. So that the outlook is hopeful.

The summer, an unutterably dull and stupid time in a school library, I spent in gathering clippings from the magazines which might be useful to the teachers and scholars in connection with the school work, and to this end I diligently studied the course of study of the Minneapolis public schools, only to discover when school opened that the school authorities had just as diligently and much more effectively studied how to change, alter and make over the aforesaid course of study. How much of my labor was wasted I do not yet know. If all, then someone is welcome to a good set of clippings all properly arranged and indexed. However, the idea is a good one and if it has failed this time, I shall remember the old adage and try, try again.

Last spring just before school closed, I issued an invitation to girls over ten to bring their sewing to the library. Eight responded at first, and I read to them for an hour. I met them for two or three Saturdays, and then because they and I were going for our vacations, I let the matter drop. This fall immediately after school opened, I made some posters announcing

that the Christmas Club for girls would meet Saturday afternoons in the Reading Room, and that it would be a fine chance for girls to get ideas for Christmas presents. The first response was not altogether encouraging, only four appearing. The next week the attendance was doubled, and we elected officers. From that it grew weekly and each time the girls have seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. If it proves successful, we shall no doubt continue it after Christmas. The girls bring their sewing and after a little business meeting I read to them. I have found that it pays to bring my own sewing to work on during the gathering of the members and the business meeting, for it makes them feel more certain that I am one with them, and it has also given them confidence in my ability to help them if they need help, as most little girls do. The prospect at present is good for the organization of a mothers' club along the same lines which will result, we hope, in interesting the women in the library, each other and their daughters.

You may ask, as I have, why the library should concern itself with such clubs. There are a number of reasons. In the first place they have the same effect that the much advocated story hour has, except that they reach a little different class of people. But more than the story hour, they give a chance for personal contact, the instituting of real friendship, and the added influence that such friendship allows. And not a small reason is the incentive which such friendship is to the librarian to do better and more efficient work.

In these ways, the Seward library is in some measure fulfilling two phases of its three-fold mission, it is a school library, and in some sense a social center. As a library for the general public most of its work yet lies before it, the territory is as yet barely touched upon, but we are eager explorers and we hope before the end of another year to have many conquests to our credit.

RELATION OF BOOK SELECTION TO REFERENCE WORK.

By AMY A. LEWIS, Librarian,
Fergus Falls.

"What you know is a drop; what you don't know is an ocean."

The reference librarian can fully realize and appreciate to the utmost the truth of

this saying—at the mercy of the public she never knows what will be the next request. The range may be anywhere from the ancient Vedas, Buddhism and the Mound Builders down to the conservation of national resources, parcels post, child welfare, and the high cost of living.

Incessant activity is the key-note of the American public library today, whether for weal or for woe the librarian must be forever on the 'qui vive'—always ready and always willing.

Public libraries are useful to readers in proportion to the extent and ready supply of the helps they furnish to facilitate researches of every kind. Among these helps a wisely selected collection of books of reference stands foremost.

From lack of information of the aid furnished by adequate books of reference in a special field, many a reader goes groping in pursuit of references or information, which by the help of the librarian might be readily obtained.

As an instance of this diffidence a lady (one of our regular patrons), said one day: "The trouble about this library is, you cannot find anything for reference work." Imagine the feelings of the poor librarian, who had been flattering herself all winter that no student, who had asked for aid, had ever gone away from the library unsatisfied. The solution was this: the lady did not know where to look, and mistakenly fearing to give trouble to the librarian, thereby deprived herself of the aid which a few words of inquiry would at once have placed at her service.

In a community such as Fergus Falls, where the educational facilities include two colleges—Norwegian and Swedish—high school, four grade schools, musical club, women's clubs, debating and literary societies, there must of necessity be a wide scope for reference work of every description.

We fully recognize the situation, and take great pains to build up a collection of books suitable for all purposes, as far as we are acquainted with the possible requirements of the public. Our policy is not to buy books "by the cord"—we prefer that "like friends, they should be, if few, well chosen."

One of the greatest charms of literature is its infinite variety, and the difficulty in book selection is how to make a wise choice amongst that variety—how to regulate the due proportion of each class, and balance it

in the scales with the needs of the community.

For general information up-to-date dictionaries and encyclopedias are of course the first necessity. Every well-stocked reference room should be provided with a goodly supply of these, and the best the library can afford. The new volumes of the Century dictionary, are particularly valuable.

Atlases are used extensively by students and the public generally, and should be well to the fore.

A fine selection of books of history is imperative, embracing general history, ancient and modern, the history of each country, and especially of our own. For chance allusions Brewer's Reader's hand-book is very useful.

For English history the Oxford manuals are very helpful. Frederic Harrison's Meaning of history is good for club work. Latimer's Nineteenth century series are useful. Taylor's Origin and growth of the English constitution, is good. We have recently added the Political history of England, in eight volumes. Story of the nations series we use constantly.

I had a curious experience in regard to a book on Russian political institutions, by Maxime Kovalevsky, which is rarely taken out. One evening a foreign looking individual came into the library, and asked if he might take out a book. He said he would willingly make a deposit, if he might be permitted to do so. Accordingly he laid down a dollar on the desk, went to the shelves, and returned with the aforesaid volume. Next day he brought it back, and also donated several copies of a Hebrew magazine to the library.

American history is of course an important section. It is especially difficult to make a wise selection here. Whatever the library has (this is my personal experience) the teachers always have their pet books, and are satisfied with no others.

We use Fiske's various historical works a great deal—Fisher's Struggle for American independence, Eggleston's Household history of the United States, Hart's Formation of the union, Burgess' Middle period, Battles and leaders of the Civil War, Thwaites' Colonies, Bicknell's Territorial acquisitions of the United States, are some we have found to be in demand. Woodrow Wilson's History of the American people has been greatly in evidence during the last two years

—an example of the "times current" which sweeps us all along.

A good supply of local history is essential. Any information relating to the state is called for constantly.

A good selection of travels and voyages should be built up. In this age of the world when means of locomotion are increasing so rapidly there is bound to be a great demand for them. Franck's Vagabond journey round the world is quite up-to-date and very readable. Marden's Travels in Spain, Dunning's Today on the Nile, Williams' Hill towns in Italy, and James' Wonders of the Colorado desert are some of our most recent additions.

In the biographical section, general collections of biography, with separate lives of all noted characters should be provided. Such as Plutarch's Lives, Lives of the poets, Heroes of the nations, Lives of American and English statesmen, American and English men of letters, reformers, scientists, and many others. This section should be kept as up-to-date as possible, for there are always inquiries for the leading men and women of the day.

Then the essayists should be well represented—a goodly band—Macaulay, Lamb, Carlyle, Irving, Emerson, Holmes, Curtis, James, Pater, are all desirable. We find Phelps' Essays on modern novelists, a most helpful book, and Dawson's Makers of English fiction, is much used. Another comprehensive reference work is Swinton's Studies in English literature. The literature section is constantly consulted, one of the most important in the library, and needs considerable replenishing as fresh demands are made upon it daily.

In poetry both English and American, the choice is wide. Shakespeare, of course, heads the list. Spenser and Chaucer, Milton and Pope, Gray and Campbell, Goldsmith and Burns, the Lake poets, the Brownings, Tennyson, Longfellow, Bryant, Whittier, and many others are indispensable. Kipling today is constantly asked for—and here comes in one of the problems—how to keep up with the ever-growing demand for the topics of the day. Every working library must decide that question for itself. The influence of the "times current" is very penetrating. Selections of songs and pieces are very useful for quick reference. A collection of poems for special days is also a necessity. Constant inquiries come in for

'pieces to speak,' for Commencement, Christmas, Thanksgiving, etc. We find Commencement parts, compiled by Harry Cassell Davis, very useful in this connection. A Dictionary of quotations should be found in every collection.

Then comes the great scientific group, including the large family of 'ologies—biology, geology, astrology, physiology, sociology, etc. Astronomy, chemistry, electricity, natural history, physics, telephone, wireless telegraphy, botany, agriculture, aviation—in this department the best and latest text-books should be found. For here the latest books are apt to be the most valuable, as new discoveries are being made constantly.

Books on birds, insects, flowers and trees are much called for. Bird guides are very essential. Chapman's Bird life, and Finley's American birds, are comprehensive.

With the Farmers' Institutes has come an increased demand for agricultural works. Goodrich's First book on farming, Massey's Practical farming, Johnson's How crops feed, and How crops grow, are some we use.

The useful arts section is growing constantly. Practical works are always to the fore in every community. Modern steam engineering by Hiscox is one we have recently acquired.

As regards fine arts, law, medicine, and theology a small but select number should be found in the library.

Civics is an important section today with the new awakening, and should be carefully selected. New thought, education, child welfare, eugenics, are all in demand, and should be represented.

A Short history of women's rights, by Eugene A. Hecker is a late purchase of ours—an example of the "times spirit." All kinds of material for debates is constantly asked for.

Truly the all-pervading thirst for knowledge brings fresh calls for aid, daily and hourly. With new openings come new responsibilities, and we have to shoulder them as best we may. Each community has its own special needs, and the duty of the library is to meet them, and supply them as effectively as possible.

Keep an eye open for opportunity—be on the alert for suggestions—use a request slip to encourage the public to make their needs known.

With the help of the A. L. A. book-list, the two catalogues of 1904 and 1911, and many other excellent lists, let the reference librarian and her book committee take fresh courage to continue their indispensable work, and above all remember to: "Boil their knowledge down into practical common sense."

TWIN CITY LIBRARY CLUB.

The Twin City Library Club will hold a meeting at the Emporium Tea Room, 8th and Robert streets, St. Paul, on December 5th. Supper will be served at 6:15 p. m. Plates 50 cents.

The club has been most fortunate in securing Hon. Philander P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, to give an address on libraries. Mr. Claxton is an interesting speaker who thoroughly believes in the public library as an integral part of public education, and his plan for rural library extension is attracting wide attention. It is hoped that a good many librarians throughout the state, especially those near the Twin Cities, may plan to be present. Many teachers and school superintendents who will be in attendance at the sessions of the M. E. A. are members of library boards and will be specially welcome. The meetings of the club are open to any who are interested in libraries.

Those who expect to attend must send their names to the secretary, Mr. Richard A. Lavell, Public Library, Minneapolis, before December 3rd.

TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

The traveling library exhibit at the State Fair was housed with the school exhibits, and consisted of a juvenile library, farmers' library, club library and teachers' library. Different members of the Library Commission staff were in charge of the exhibit and distributed pamphlets and book lists to a wilted but inquiring public. In spite of two handicaps—the stentorian-voiced jewelry fakir across the way, and the intense heat, the exhibit each day attracted an interested group of visitors.

The Library Commission was represented by Miss Stearns, on the Agricultural School Special which toured the northern part of the state over the Soo line, Nov. 5-20, inclusive. A juvenile library was placed in

the children's car; a farmers' library in the car containing the farm crops exhibit, and a library on domestic science and hygiene in the woman's car. Two-hour stops were made at forty towns and short talks were given by the specialists accompanying the exhibit. By special arrangement the school children of the towns visited the train to view the exhibits and hear the lectures. Great interest was shown in the libraries, and applications are coming in steadily from places all along the line.

A pamphlet containing an extensive list of the books on education in the traveling library has been published under the title "Teachers' library." These lists will be sent to teachers or students taking extension courses at the University. Many of the text books required in the extension course have been included, but on account of the length of the list, many were perforce, omitted. This applies especially to text books in English courses. A complete list on any subject may be had on application.

Last year magazine articles were sent out with the traveling art exhibit loaned by the State Art Society. This year at the request of Mr. Flagg, the director of the society, two fully equipped libraries covering art and art crafts subjects have been sent. As the art exhibit remains from one week to ten days in a place, any person having a vital interest in any particular craft represented, can borrow a book from the traveling library and inform himself on the subject.

The librarian of the Library Commission on a short trip to Carver and Sibley counties established traveling library stations at Gaylord, Arlington, Young America and Waconia and reopened stations at Winthrop and Norwood.

The agricultural newspapers in Minnesota have been generous in advertising the traveling libraries, especially the farmers' libraries and the articles published have been copied in many local newspapers throughout the state. As a direct result, numerous applications for information have been received.

H. J. S.

INSTITUTION NOTES.

At the State Hospital for Crippled Children, located at Phalen Park, a library club has been formed to take charge of traveling

libraries sent out by the Commission.

In joining the club, the children who wished to become members signed their names to an imposing document, prepared by Miss Pringle and designed for "mural decoration." In this way they pledged themselves to take good care of the books. They then elected two librarians, a boy and a girl, who are to issue the books on regular library days. "Bed patients" can have their books changed any day, but others must wait till Friday. Miss Pringle has visited this library and told stories to those who are not able to be about. It is hoped that some time the children at Phalen Park will have a separate library room furnished especially for use as a reading room, with suitable chairs and tables.

At the State Sanatorium for the tubercular at Walker, there is a collection of several hundred volumes for the use of the patients, one of whom acts as librarian. It is planned to introduce some of the features of library organization in order to provide occupation for several others, beside the librarian, as one of the tests of cure is ability to do some light work. An accession book is to be started and a charging system with cards and pockets is to be provided. This is one of the methods by which a library in an institution can be made to serve several purposes besides furnishing books and reading.

In her report for October, Miss Loehl, the librarian of the State School at Red Wing, reports 230 readers out of a population of 260. The State Reformatory has 396 out of 438, and the State Prison, 710 out of 833. Can any public library equal these figures? Doubtless it is the shut-in condition of the inmates, which makes the formation of the "reading habit" seem an easy and natural thing. Fortunately in Minnesota the institutions are supplied with libraries to meet this need.

M. E. C.

SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

The Minnesota Educational Association meeting to be held in St. Paul, December 4-7, will bring to the state a staunch supporter of libraries in the person of the Hon. Philander P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education. Mr. Claxton will give an address at one of the general sessions of the M. E. A. and has also consented to speak at the meeting of the Twin City Library Club

on the evening of December 5th. Visitors will be welcomed at this meeting and should secure tickets for the dinner in advance from Mr. Richard A. Lavell, Public Library, Minneapolis. Full announcement of the meeting appears in another column of this bulletin. An exhibit of library aids for teachers will be shown in the lobby of the Auditorium during the educational meeting. This will consist of industrial books for children, books for youngest readers, reading lists, pamphlets on school library organization, care and use, vocational aids and picture lists. A conference of the Normal school librarians is planned for Friday, December 6th, in connection with the meeting of the Educational Association.

District Educational Meetings.

The Southern Minnesota Educational Association meeting was held in Mankato, November 7-9. A fine exhibit of library aids for teachers was prepared by Miss Farr and Miss Malzahn of the Normal library. There were tables of books suited for the different grades, one showing printed aids of all kinds for school libraries, organization, care and binding, book selection and reading lists. The high school table had a special collection of vocational pamphlets, reading lists and use of the library. The table most popular of all was the one on which the Thanksgiving aids were displayed showing that the teachers "want the thing that they can use tomorrow." Library topics were presented in two section meetings. In the Rural school section the discussion of vitalizing of the rural school library included suggestions as to greater care in the selection of the books to supply something for each individual in the school, such instruction on books in the Teachers' training departments as will give the rural teachers increased knowledge of children's books for their own benefit as well as the children, the reading circle as a means of encouraging reading of good books, and the proposed plan for combining school libraries with county libraries. The topic for the high school section was Modernizing the high school library to meet the demands of A. D. and the brief time allowed was chiefly devoted to suggestions on library aids on vocational training. The meetings of the other district educational associations will be made the occasion for presentation of library topics, exhibits of material and

library conferences. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

Northwest-Central—Detroit, February 7.
Northeastern—Duluth, February or March.
North Central—February 27 or March 6.
Northern—St. Cloud, March 13-15.
Southwestern—Red Wing, March.

Teachers' Training Departments.

Eighty-one of the high schools of the state are training high school girls to teach in rural schools. In such courses the various problems of the country school are considered and discussed. One of the first things that a country teacher has to do is to select a school library, and for this task she is sometimes poorly prepared. It is fitting, then, that the work in the training department should include some instruction on the use of the state school library catalog, the selection and care of a school library, suggestions as to making the school library a definite part of the school work and life. An outline for such work has been distributed to interested training teachers and work has been given in a number of the classes.

In October talks were given to the training departments in Austin and Detroit.

Pupils' reading circles are being maintained in several of the counties of the state. In Goodhue county a marked improvement in the quality of the children's reading is traced directly to the reading circle. A list of reading circle books for St. Louis county was compiled early in September and a visit was made to Rochester, October 17th to confer with the local librarian in the compilation of a reading list for the pupils of the Rochester public schools. The lists are general in character planned to appeal to the varied interests and tastes of the boys and girls, to give them "joy reading" and something of inspiration and suggestion in their books. The Rochester list is designed for pupils who have already acquired the library habit. The county list is briefer and for children who have had fewer books. The library club of Detroit gave a reception on the evening of October 25th for the teachers in the public schools, when Miss Wilson spoke on Children's reading in the home and in the school.

The Clay county teachers' institute at Moorhead was visited on Saturday, November 9th, and a talk given on the rural school library.

The consolidated school district of Glyn-don held a parents' and teachers' meeting Saturday evening, November 9th, and par-ents and teachers were addressed on the children's reading.

Miss Ottilie Liedloff has been appointed librarian at the St. Cloud Normal. Miss Hurlbert's class in Library Science at the Moorhead Normal has an enrollment of eight. The work of this class will be fur-ther strengthened by Mr. Reed's sixty-hour course in children's literature.

Vocational Guidance.

The library may increase its helpfulness to the high school by suggesting and sup-plying material on vocational guidance. Much helpful material in the way of sug-gestion is issued in pamphlet form and should, of course, be supplemented by the books to which they refer. Some helpful pamphlets are:

Davis—Vocational guidance through compo-sition—English Journal, Oct. 1912. Uni-versity of Chicago Press, 35c.

Girls' trade education league.

Bookbinding, 10c.

Dressmaking, 10c.

Millinery, 10c.

Nursing, 10c.

Nursery Maid, 10c.

Salesmanship, 10c.

Stenography and typewriting, 10c.

Straw hat making, 10c.

Survey of occupations open to the girl, 25c.

Telephone operating, 10c.

Vocation Bureau of Boston.

McKeever—Assisting the boy in the choice

of a vocation, 5c.

W. A. McKeever, Manhattan, Kansas.

N. Y.—High school teachers' association:

Accountancy and the business profession,

10c.

Choosing a career for boys, 10c.

Choosing a career for girls, 10c.

Civil service, 5c.

Graphic arts, 10c.

Occupations for women in the domestic

arts, 5c.

Summer employment in the country.

Wage earning occupations connected

with the household arts, 5c.

Wage earning occupations for boys and

girls, 10c.

Vocational adjustment of school children,

10c.

E. W. Weaver, 25 Jefferson Ave.,

Brooklyn.

Vocation bureau of Boston:

Vocations for boys:

Architect, 15c.

Baker, 15c.

Banking, 15c.

Confectionery manufacture, 15c.

Department store, 50c.

Grocer, 15c.

Landscape gardening, 15c.

Machinist, 15c.

Vocation bureau of Boston.

(Yearly subscription fee of \$3.00 brings all the

pamphlets of the Vocation bureau and the

Girls' trade education league.)

U. S.—Bureau of education.

Educational status of nursing (Bulletin

No. 7, 1912), 5c.

M. W.

ART EXHIBITS TO TOUR STATE.

Governor Eberhart, C. G. Schulz, state superintendent of public instruction, and President Vincent of the State University have approved the plan of the director of the State Art Society to show in various Minnesota cities and towns an exhibit of fine and industrial art for the purpose of illustrating to the people how closely art is related to their every-day business and home life, and have stated their intentions to co-operate with the Art Society in every possi-ble way to make this unusual project suc-cessful. With these various departments of the state working together it is possible that more Minnesotans will be benefited by the work of the Art Society in the coming winter than have been reached by it in the nine years since the society was created by legislative act. That this is a worth-while project, promising good to the people them-selves as well as to the state at large, is attested by the endorsements it has re-ceived.

The plan of the Art Society, as arranged by the director, Maurice I. Flagg, is to send two trunksful of exhibits for display in va-rious places, beginning early in November. These exhibits will include samples of inter-esting and profitable work done in Minne-sota homes, such as laces, embroideries, weaving, pottery, rag rugs of artistic de-sign, etc.; examples of art work done in the public schools of St. Paul and Minne-apolis, these being intended as definite sug-gestions to public schools throughout the state, and colored photographs of rooms in simply furnished homes, illustrating first the furnishings inartistically arranged and the same furnishings artistically placed, these being helpful suggestions to housewives on how to arrange with the most pleasing ef-fect whatever articles of use or decoration they may have.

These unusual exhibits will be publicly displayed in the various cities and towns, and public meetings will be held at stated times while they are on show. At these meetings there will be addresses on various phases of art as applied to simple, every-day affairs of life. They will show how men and women and boys and girls, whether or not they have had artistic training, can make use of certain artistic principles to their own pleasure and profit.

These addresses will be prepared by the director of the State Art Society and will

be read by the mayor, the superintendent of schools, or some other person designated by those in charge of the exhibition in each town. In this way the people may obtain the maximum of advantage from the exhibition.

Director Flagg, whose office is in the Old Capitol, St. Paul, wishes to communicate with any persons in any towns in Minnesota who desire to have this exhibit shown, and these addresses read, in their home town. No charges whatever are made by the Art Society. The only expense is that of transportation of the exhibits and the providing of a proper exhibition place.

As stated elsewhere, the Library Commission will co-operate with the Art Society by furnishing traveling libraries to accompany the exhibit, and the Commission urges the public libraries throughout the state to take advantage of this opportunity.

FOR SALE.

Meyer — Konversations-lexikon, 5th Ed., 17v., 1/2 mor. Scoville Memorial Library, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. Eleanor J. Gladstone, Librarian.

U. S. Bureau of Ethnology—Reports, 17v. May be obtained by paying freight and drayage. Charles W. Jerome, 5615 London Road, Duluth, Minn.

PERSONAL.

Miss Margaret Palmer, who has been librarian at Hibbing since the opening of the library four years ago has resigned her position. Miss Palmer has built up the library work on broad lines, and has been exceedingly successful in creating an interest in the library among all classes of citizens, so that each year has shown a marked increase in its use. A vigorous protest against her resignation was entered by the patrons of the library, showing a strong appreciation of the service she has rendered in the community, and her departure from the state is a matter of keen regret to the Library Commission and all the library workers in the state, who have felt the stimulus of her fine personality and high library ideals.

Miss Palmer will spend the holidays with friends in Chicago, and plans to take a vacation of several months before resuming library work.

Miss Stella Wiley, librarian of the Stewart library at Grinnell, Iowa, has been elected librarian at Hibbing to succeed Miss Palmer, and will take charge of the library January 1st. Miss Wiley is a graduate of the University of Iowa and of Pratt Institute Library School, 1907. She has had experience as children's librarian in Lincoln, Neb., and as librarian at Onawa, Iowa, and Grinnell.

Miss Effie Sands, for the past three years librarian at Red Wing, has accepted the position of assistant librarian in the State Normal School at Bellingham, Wash., and left for the West November 11th.

Miss Grace Meyer, who has assisted Miss Sands, will be in charge of the library, with Mrs. Amanda Anderson as assistant until next July, when Miss Marguerite Hickman of Red Wing, now taking the library course at Pratt Institute, will become librarian. Miss Hickman was formerly an assistant at Red Wing, and has had later experience as assistant librarian at Lead, S. D.

Miss Edna Emerick, for the past nine years assistant in the Rochester library, has been elected librarian. Miss Clara Toan, who for a time attended the library school at the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh, has been made assistant.

Miss Otilie Liedloff of Mankato, Wisconsin Library School, 1912, has become librarian at the St. Cloud Normal School. Before taking up library work, Miss Liedloff was a teacher in the Minneapolis public schools.

Miss Lillian Sutherland has been elected children's librarian at Virginia and began work November 15th. Miss Sutherland has had library training at Simmons College and the course in children's work at Pittsburgh, followed by experience as children's librarian of the Wylie Avenue Branch in Pittsburgh, and in charge of the children's department in the Rosenberg library at Galveston, Tex.

Miss Margaret Ryan, a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Drexel Institute Library School, 1912, has been appointed librarian of the new West Duluth Branch.

Miss Nouvart Tashjian, Western Reserve Library School, who has been a cataloger in the Library of Congress has become assistant in the cataloging department of the St. Paul library.

Miss Beatrice Wightman, formerly assistant in the Chatham Square Branch of the

New York Public Library, has joined the staff of the St. Paul library.

Mrs. Emily J. Akre has resigned her position as librarian at Madison, Minn., on account of ill health. Mrs. Sarah Hurd has been elected her successor.

Miss Eula Bryan succeeds Miss Maud Davis as librarian at Long Prairie.

Miss Margot E. Wollan has been elected librarian at Glenwood.

Miss Lydia Poirier, formerly librarian at Duluth, is spending the winter in Hawaii and teaching in a plantation school.

NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

Anoka. The secretary of the Commission gave a talk on library work at a meeting of the Philolectian society November 1st. This club of 60 members was instrumental in establishing the library and continues to study its needs in addition to other civic problems each year. They recently contributed \$25 to the library toward the purchase of some valuable histories.

Benson. The new library building is progressing rapidly and the roof will soon be on, so that it is hoped that it may be ready for occupancy by February.

The receipts for season tickets for the library entertainment course will cover expenses, and about \$50 was cleared on the first number.

Brown's Valley. The library and reading rooms have been fitted with electric lights, adding much to their comfort. The list of magazines has been revised and now provides an excellent selection of reading matter suited to all tastes.

Chatfield. At the Agricultural Fair in September, the ladies' auxiliary of the library board presided over a booth for the benefit of the library. The net receipts were \$95.65, which has been expended for new books.

Cloquet. A list of books suitable for each of the school grades has been compiled and distributed to the teachers.

Owing to congestion in the fiction stacks, the ribbon arrangements of books has been made, placing fiction on the second and third shelves of each stack, thus distributing them around all the aisles instead of

in the first two as formerly. Books of non-fiction are placed on the shelves above and below the fiction shelves.

Detroit. The plans for the Carnegie building, drawn by Claude & Starck, Madison, Wis., have been accepted, and it is hoped that the foundation may be completed this fall.

The library club has purchased a 50-foot lot adjoining that donated to the city by E. G. Holmes, giving a plot of ground 100 feet square for the library building.

Duluth. The West End Branch has been removed into better quarters,—a large room in a new building over a five and ten cent store. Hand-bills advertising the library are being distributed with packages from the store. Traveling libraries have been placed in several more schools, and one of 60 volumes in a home at Fond du Lac.

Mrs. T. D. Merrill has loaned to the library a painting by Edward Steichen, the German-American artist. A second floor has been added to the stack room.

Fergus Falls. Sunday opening has been resumed for the fall and winter season, and is proving very popular. The members of the library board take charge in turn on this day.

The exhibit of pictures by Charles M. Russell attracted much attention. A reading list on the West was posted at the same time.

Fulda. The Reading Club, whose members have hitherto served as librarian in turn, has now employed Miss Bertha Coffitt to act in that capacity.

Graceville. New shelving and a librarian's desk have been arranged for, and it is hoped that the reading room may be open every evening during the winter.

Grand Marais. The library board gave a progressive Hallowe'en party, which consisted of an entertainment at the high school auditorium at 8:15, when envelope donations were received, supper served at the library from 9:30 to 11:30, and a general good time at the village hall where the hobgoblins held up their victims for 25 cents each.

Grand Rapids. The Women's Club with the consent of the library board will furnish the rooms in the basement of the library as a rest room for farmers' wives and a center for social work in the community.

Hutchinson. The entertainment course which has been maintained by the library board for 11 years has now established so good a reputation that with no soliciting the sale of season tickets is larger than ever before.

A collection of Indian portraits owned by Mr. T. B. Walker of Minneapolis, was hung in the library during the 50th anniversary of the Indian outbreak, and attracted much attention.

International Falls. The net receipts of a dance given in September were about \$100. A series of five entertainments has been arranged for the winter.

Kasson. The library board gave a Hal-lowe'en social at the opera house October 30th, and cleared \$88. The general admission was ten cents which included the moving picture show. Other attractions were booths where tea, candy and popcorn, apples and frappe were served, a fish pond, "house of mystery," Hindoo seer and Gypsy queen.

Kenyon. The Players Club put on "In old Virginia" for the benefit of the library.

Little Falls. The library board and librarian gave a reception to the teachers and the members of the board of education and their wives on September 28th. A sacred concert was given in the library auditorium one Sunday afternoon. Since the library is open every day there is a marked increase in the use of the reference department.

Miss Carey spent a week in Little Falls assisting Mrs. Blanchard in cataloging some new books and revising records. While there a meeting of the library board with their wives and husbands was held, when the new books were inspected, light refreshments served and Miss Carey gave a talk, the text of which was "The test of a library is found in its ability to establish and sustain the reading habit and the library habit." In applying this test Miss Carey found that the library measured up in a highly satisfactory manner with respect to building, books, equipment and librarian.

Long Prairie. The Women's Literary Club has started a chain of entertainments to raise money for the library. Ten members will each entertain ten people, who in turn will each entertain ten of their friends. This will practically include everybody in the village, and as each guest pays ten cents a fund of over \$100 will be raised.

Mankato. The Junior Civic League held its annual exhibit of vegetables in the library in September, and the annual meeting for awarding of prizes in October.

An exhibit of the work of the schools in drawing and painting was hung in the children's room during October.

Marshall. The city papers are publishing a list of the books in the library from week to week.

Minneota. A home talent play will be given for the benefit of the library about December 1st.

Montevideo. The Horace K. Turner art exhibit was held at the library October 30 to November 2. It consisted of about 200 fine reproductions of painting, sculpture, etc. An admission fee of 10 and 15 cents was charged, and the proceeds amounting to \$78.70, will be used to purchase pictures for the public schools.

New Ulm. The heirs of the late Charles Silverson, mayor of New Ulm, have offered to give \$5,000 toward a public library. A mass meeting was held in October, when methods of procedure were discussed, and it appeared that there was a growing sentiment in favor of a public library. A committee of seven was appointed to gather statistics as to cost of maintenance of libraries in other cities, and report at a later mass meeting when it is hoped that definite steps may be taken.

A home talent concert was given for the benefit of the library November 13th, the net receipts of which were \$120.75.

North Branch. A public library has been organized at North Branch through the efforts of Rev. Ira E. Schuler, pastor of the Federated church. Several hundred books have been received by donation, which will be kept in Mrs. Brist's store for the present. Rooms will be provided for the library in the city building which is being remodeled.

Northfield. A series of lectures on hygiene and sanitation will be given at the library under the auspices of the Rice Co. Medical society public health education committee.

Owatonna. The library board has decided to extend the heat and light to the art room on the second floor so that it may be used for exhibit purposes. The Commission collection of forestry pictures was on exhibition in October, and an exhibit of Copley prints was held during November. It is

the intention to have one exhibit each month.

Additional stacks will be placed in the book-room and an alcove adjoining the main reading-room is to be furnished as a reference room, as the present reference room is crowded to its full capacity. A Teachers' corner has been installed where the late pedagogical books and magazines, graded lists of books and various other aids are kept. The librarian is giving a series of talks on the library, children's reading, etc., to the students in the Normal department.

Red Wing. The annual library reception was held October 4th, when Mr. C. O. Morica, the new superintendent of the State Training School, gave the address of the evening. On the same evening, the West End Children's Civic League had a party at the West End reading-room. H. J. Hjermstad gave a talk on Civic pride, prizes were awarded and refreshments served. Out of the 110 children who enrolled as members of the league last spring, 94 had continued their work and the results are plainly evidenced by the beautiful flower and vegetable gardens, in that part of the city.

Rochester. The report of county extension for nine months was presented at a recent meeting of the county commissioners who expressed great interest in what had been accomplished and made suggestions as to establishment of more stations. Ten libraries have been circulated, and 6,000 books have been loaned outside the city.

St. James. At the first annual meeting of the library a very satisfactory report of the year's work was given. Over 600 persons are using the library which represents every family in town. In the ten months since the library opened more than 8,000 books have been borrowed, while about 11,000 people have visited the rooms. The year closes with all bills paid and a small balance in the treasury.

St. Paul. Charles C. Soule, Brookline Mass., president of the Boston Book Co., has been engaged by the library board as an expert to advise them regarding plans for the new building. Mr. Soule spent some weeks in the city working on the preliminary sketches. The Association of Commerce has turned over to the library board a fund of \$7,500 to be used in investigating libraries in other cities and for other pre-

liminary expenses in connection with the new building.

Shakopee. The Princess theatre gave a benefit for the library October 1st, when an excellent program was provided by the management, and there was music by local talent. The library's share of the proceeds amounted to \$32.

Stillwater. The library board has decided to change the former system of classification to the Dewey system, and Miss Carey, the Commission organizer, spent a week assisting the librarian in starting this work.

Thief River Falls. The library ball given October 4th was a great success both financially and socially, adding about \$235 to the library treasury. Some needed improvements to the library room will be made at once. The walls will be tinted, two new reading tables, a dozen chairs, magazine rack, and more lights will be added. After January 1st, the library will be open every afternoon and evening.

Two Harbors. During the month of October the librarian has visited the traveling library stations in the county and made arrangements for 10 new ones. To do this she tramped with pack and gun from eight to fifteen miles a day, traveled on logging roads and on one occasion, only, in a parlor car and auto. Beside the ten new stations, teachers living in Two Harbors and teaching in country districts get from 10 to 15 children's books at a time for supplementary reading.

Virginia. The new building is progressing satisfactorily, and will be ready for occupancy about the first of the year. Arrangements have been made with the school board to take over the books of the school library and branches will be maintained at five outlying schools. At the new North Side grade school, a room has been planned solely for library purposes. This will be open after school hours with Miss Stella Stebbins, assistant librarian, in charge.

Wayzata. The library is now open three nights each week in charge of the Woman's club. This is in addition to the regular daily opening from 10 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 4 p. m.

Winona. The Commission exhibit of forestry pictures was an attraction during the first two weeks of November. Riley week was celebrated in this library as well as in many others throughout the state.

